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HEATING UP THE COLD WAR
DEPP, JOLIE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS {page 17}

HIS TOWN
LBJ FEELS HEAT BUT DROPS 38 IN WIN
SPORTS {page 31}

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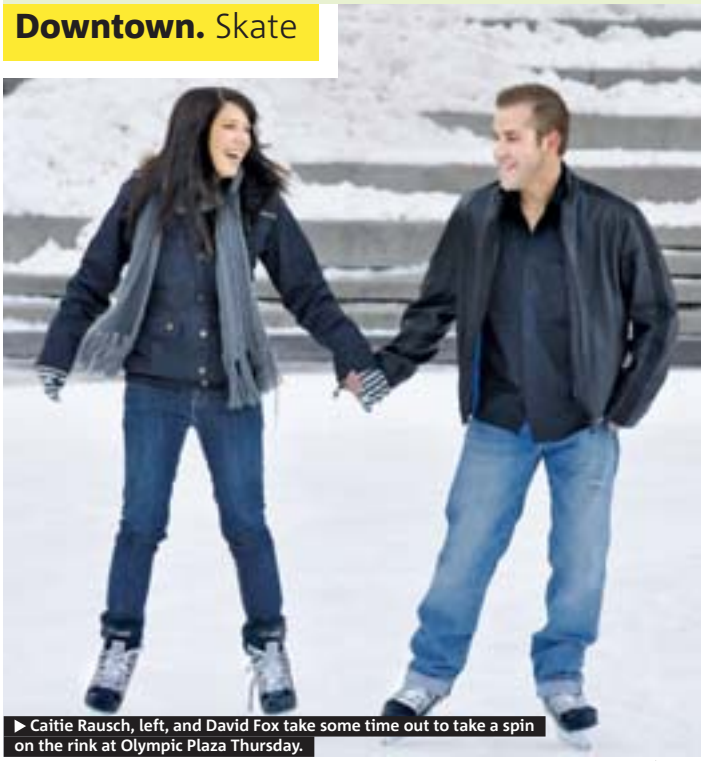

▶ Caitie Rausch, left, and David Fox take some time out to take a spin on the rink at Olympic Plaza Thursday.

JEREMY NOLAIS/FOR METRO

Play time at Olympic Plaza

The rink at Olympic Plaza was the only of the four city-run outdoor rinks open as of Thursday. A recent warm stretch in town has made the flooding process difficult, an official with the city said earlier this week.

Stelmach blames fear mongering

Says opponents are spreading doubt about health care {page 4}

From secret to the ridiculous

WikiLeaks showing a humorous side to leaders {page 8}

City settles at 5% — for now

- As it stands, the tax rate increase will amount to around $4.90 per month for the average home
- All but Ald. Peter Demong voted to approve budget

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

After four days of debate, city council approved the 2011 budget yesterday afternoon and landed on a five per cent tax rate increase with the possibility of going lower.

If the police come up with $2 million in further reductions and administration finds $8 million in across-the-board cuts, the tax rate could land as low as four per cent, said Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

"We did ask for a few additional savings that will come back to council in the new year so it could go, if we accept all the savings it could go as low as four per cent," said Nenshi.

However, not all of Nenshi's colleagues agree with the final number.

Ald. Peter Demong said the rate increase should have been closer to the municipal price index at four per cent.

"I think we should try whenever possible to increase accordingly to what is happening with average Calgarians," he said. "I would like to have seen a stronger signal, that's all."

While Ald. Andre Chabot voted to approve the budget, he agreed the cuts could have gone further.

"Personally, I still think we need to go lower," he said.

"I supported the budget reluctantly because there are some cuts that are on the table that potentially could come forward in April."

Budget highlights

- Council voted to give the Calgary Public Library an extra $500,000 on top of the $3.3 million increase for 2011.
- The $3 park and ride fee was axed and will be gone as of April 2011.
- Calgary Transit will add 79,000 hours of service hours.

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Police restore order to a Rio slum after routing drug gangs. Scan this code for the story.

Holiday. Giving

▶ Farid Shivji, right, and Farlee Frunchak, both general managers at Country Hills Toyota, admire their pile of soon-to-be-donated food.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

Dealership shows some leadership

Country Hills Toyota gathered all the food that had been brought into its headquarters and prepared to deliver it to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank yesterday. Trucks will deliver the food and $2,300 in cash donations to the food bank today.

Dawn of a new era at city hall?

Mayor Naheed Nenshi congratulated the work he and council members did this week He said budget reflects the priorities of Calgarians

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

The tone of this council felt different than those of previous ones, according to members of council, and it may have played a role in in what aldermen are deeming a success.

Having observed the previous council and now having gone through four days of budget talks, Nenshi said there's a noticeable change.

"I know that when I've been sitting in the gallery in the past, people have been fighting and we really didn't see that," he said. "If people would put forth a motion, we'd have an honest debate about it and it would win or lose and we'd go to the next one."

Veteran Ald. Dale Hodges said Nenshi wasn't the only one to sense the shift.

"It was a lot better," said Hodges, adding there was far more open discussion between council members.

Back and forth

- Around 20 Calgarians showed up to speak at the public-hearing portion of the meeting on Monday.
- The city also asked for feedback via email, Twitter and Facebook.

"We were able to get into discussing a whole number of things, topics, relating to the budget but which weren't formally in front of us."

Peter Rishaug, co-founder of Civic Camp, said he's been tuned into the council meeting all week.

"There's a collective confidence, it seemed," he said.

Rishaug said increasing the engagement with the public added a new level of openness to council.

"It's quite a refreshing change," said Rishaug.

Nenshi said submissions from the public greatly influenced council's decisions.

"Based on one submission at the public hearing, we lowered the price of the low-income transit pass. We wouldn't have done that without that public hearing."

Bomb discovery leads to charges

A Calgary woman has been charged following the discovery of a bomb in southwest residence Wednesday.

Alina Maria Denise Hubler, 25, faces one count of possession of an explosive device.

Police were called to a home on Woodridge Terrace around 10:40 a.m.

An explosive device was located inside a home and Hubler was arrested on scene.

A tactical unit safely removed the explosive and shipped it to Ottawa for further analysis.

METRO

Bad news about Botox

University of Calgary researchers have discovered Botox doesn't affect only the muscles it's being injected into.

Studies on rabbits found the toxin can cause atrophy in limbs not directly targeted. METRO

Two men arrested in wake of shooting

Calgary police have laid charges against two men in relation to a shooting Wednesday evening.

Officers arrived to a call on 5th Street and 17th Avenue SW around 7:45 p.m. They found a man in his 30s who had been shot six times in his thighs. He was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The alleged attackers reportedly fled in a rental vehicle but were later apprehended at Calgary International Airport. They cannot be named until a bail hearing has been held.

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Premier says opposition spreads fear

Fall legislature ended with politicians pointing fingers over stories of patients suffering in emergency rooms

Premier Ed Stelmach wrapped up a tumultuous fall legislature session Thursday, accusing his political opponents of spreading fear over long wait times in health care.

"They have a job to do, I guess, but part of that job is not to create the situation or put fear into people that they may not be able to access any health services in this province," Stelmach told the house during question period.

"We have a very good system. It needs improving. It will. We have the money in place."

Opposition Liberal Leader David Swann told Stelmach that the health file has destroyed the government's credibility.

"Actions speak louder than words. You, sir, have lost the trust of Albertans. You've certainly lost the trust of health professionals. I believe you've lost the confidence of most of this legislature," Swann said as Stelmach's backbenchers hooted and laughed.

"That's exactly what the public is looking at — this kind of (opposition) theatrics," Stelmach replied.

"We're going to stay the course and we're going to get the job done."

The finger-pointing has lasted for the last five weeks of legislature.

METRO

▶ Premier Ed Stelmach

Raj Sherman, the parliamentary assistant for health and an emergency room doctor, was booted from caucus for criticizing former health minister Ron Liepert and others on the health file. He then accused them of a whisper campaign to smear him as mentally unstable.

The Tories introduced a revised health act that became the subject of an all-night opposition filibuster. Some members slept at their desks while others talked from sundown to sunrise on an amendment to put definitive surgical wait times in law. The motion failed.

This week, a leaked government policy document suggested the Tories plan to broaden privatized medicine under the public health umbrella.

In the midst of the turmoil, the health minister introduced a new five-year plan to cut surgical wait times across the board and bring more beds online.

Opposition NDP Leader Brian Mason said the session was telling.

"Certainly in the 10 years I've been here in this legislature I've never seen the government so dishevelled, confused and off balance," he said.

"You could see on the faces across there just a different look in their eyes. One of real fear.

"Change is going to come and I think this government knows it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brink of collapse

- The legislature has been rocked by bureaucratic and political paroxysms that began in late October when Dr. Paul Parks, the province's top emergency room doctor, warned that overcrowding had put the emergency ward system on the verge of collapse, and that patients were suffering and even dying waiting for care.
- In the weeks that followed, the province's top health bureaucrat, Stephen Duckett, agreed to leave his post after he argued with reporters on the emergency situation.

NENSHI THERE TO EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES

Opinion

DJ KELLY

THE SCRUTINEER, WITH ANALYSIS OF CIVIC ISSUES IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

Consider it hell week for city staffers and councillors. None of them look forward to the annual budget review, but it is a process they have to get through.

It is the one time of year when everything is on the front burner. At any given time the money allotted to any program or department could be cut entirely, increased wildly, or anything in between. During this week the council chamber is often a mad house filled with very stressed people — including many average citizens checking in on the proceedings — worried about what could happen to the funding for their pet issue.

Heck, in 2009, council actually accidentally cut all funding for garbage collection for about 12 hours until the mistake was pointed out. It can all be very confusing and nerve-wracking living so near the edge.

However for some reason this time around has felt a little ... different. The vibe in the Council Chamber this past week has been more relaxed than in previous years. Not to mention, dare I say, it's been more cordial, too?

In my recent visits to council I think this new friendlier council owes a lot to the unorthodox style of Mayor Nenshi. Normally you would expect the chair of a multibillion-dollar organization to be stern, overtly efficient, matter of fact, and entirely "by the book." Not so with Nenshi. He thanked every speaker during the public submissions proceeding in surprisingly specific ways, and made everyone actually feel welcomed. This is hard to do when you consider how imposing a visit to a council meeting can be for a regular Calgarian.

A lot of this probably comes from Nenshi's personality. He's not the bossy type you normally expect a mayor to be. He's constantly joking and keeping things lighthearted. Even when disagreeing with other council members or the public he's kept this up. (My favourite exchange that illustrates this point was when a presenter asked why the city is building a fire hall in an area where only a few hundred people live. Nenshi's somewhat glib answer? "Because there might be a fire.")

Certainly there have been disagreements this budget week just as there always have been, but they've taken on a very different tone: more of an "agree to disagree/we're all in this together" manner. Ald. Lowe and the mayor have had their differences of opinion on several issues. Ald. Mar and Ald. Farrell have appeared at odds with other council members at times too. Ald. Chabot appears to be trying to inherit Ric McIver's title of resident fiscal hawk by asking questions no one else thought to ask. (Sometimes they are important questions, other times there is a reason no one else asked them.) Regardless, it appears everyone will come out of this with a healthy amount of respect for one another still intact.

How long that will last is up for debate, but for now, it looks like our council really is working well together and making progress in doing so. And this is something we haven't seen as much of in past sessions.

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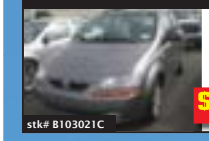
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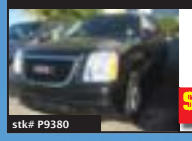
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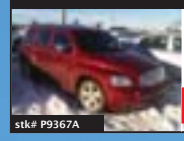
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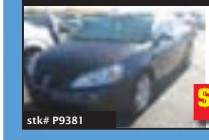
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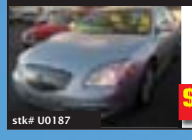
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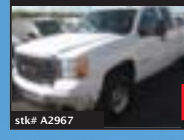
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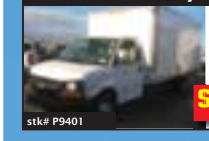
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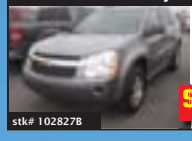
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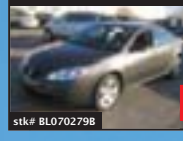
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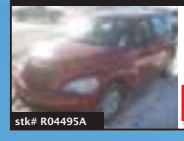
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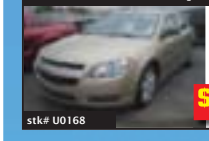
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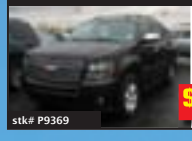
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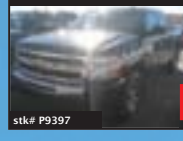
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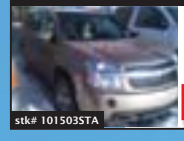
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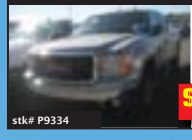
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stk# P9334

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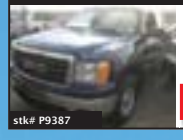
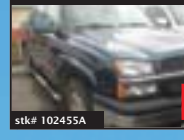
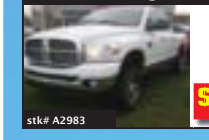
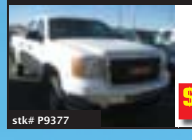
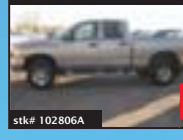
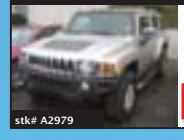

$27,995
Extended Cab, 4x4, One Calgary owner
$222 bi-weekly²
stk# P9387

2006 Chev Avalanche LTZ

$22,995
Leather, 97,000km
$207 bi-weekly¹
stk# 102455A

2008 Dodge Ram 2500 SXT

$37,995
6.7L Diesel, Crew Cab, 4x4
$333 bi-weekly¹
stk# A2983

2009 GMC Sierra 2500 SLT

$31,995
Crew Cab, 4x4
$252 bi-weekly²
stk# P9377

2005 Dodge Ram 2500 SLT

$27,995
Diesel, Crew Cab, 4x4
$287 bi-weekly³
stk# 102806A

2007 Hummer H3

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FRASER INSTITUTE

Province still the top destination for investors

Alberta has again been labelled Canada's hotspot for investors by the Fraser Institute, a major public policy think-tank, in its 2010 investment climate report released Thursday.

Neighbouring provinces also fared well, as Saskatchewan ranked second and B.C. was third.

"The western provinces, led by Alberta, have cemented their position as the best places to invest in Canada," said Charles Lammam, senior policy analyst.

"The policies they have put in place should serve as an example to the rest of Canada on the actions they need to take to attract investment." METRO

AHS unveils beds, co-operation plan

Chairman says self-assessment indicates Alberta Health Services is driving change in the right areas and spending money strategically

Alberta Health Services says it will open 280 hospital beds by March to help unclog emergency rooms.

The pledge is part of the superboard's response to a self-assessment on how well the health-care system has been performing this year.

Acting CEO Dr. Chris Eagle said Alberta Health Services will release ways on how it will reduce wait times for surgery in a few weeks.

"AHS is implementing aggressive action plans to improve performance to reduce emergency department lengths of stay and improve access to continuing care and surgery wait times," Eagle said Thursday.

He made the remarks following the first meeting of the Alberta Health Services board since former CEO Stephen Duckett was let go Nov. 24.

The board also released a paper that spells out how it should work with the provincial government.

The so-called mandate document follows the resignations of four board members in protest after Duckett left. Some of them also said they quit because of growing government interference.

More news

- The board also announced a plan to expand the roll of advisory councils to make the health system more responsive to smaller communities. The leaders of those advisory councils are to meet with Hughes and Eagle within six weeks.
- Alberta Health Services also announced that it is on track to record a modest $20-million surplus by the end of the fiscal year.

80 The performance report says 80 per cent of hospital patients rate the quality of their overall hospital stay at between 8 and 10 out of 10.

The document says the board is accountable to Health Minister Gene Zwozdesky who is in turn accountable to Albertans through the legislature.

"It provides clarity around who has what accountability," said board chairman Ken Hughes.

The document says AHS handles planning and delivering of care, while the government is responsible for setting regulations and policy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Alberta Health Minister Gene Zwozdesky said a new document outlining how AHS will work with the province is necessary, because people want a clear understanding of who is responsible and accountable for health care.

CivicCamp does some reflection on election

With the municipal election come and gone, CivicCamp is looking towards the future.

The non-partisan group, which attempts to engage citizens and build on ideas to make Calgary a better place, is hosting a planning event of sorts Saturday morning at the Calgary Public Library's John Dutton Theatre.

"There's really no hierarchy in the organization," explained representative Jeremy Zhao.

"If certain citizens want to do certain things, they can go out and create a smaller group to push for what they want to do."

Zhao said Saturday's event, officially entitled CivicCamp 3-D, will be an opportunity to reflect on the election and set goals for the future.

15 CivicCamp hosted 15 citizen's forums in the run up to the Oct. 18 municipal election.

"We're going to be breaking down into smaller action groups — whether that be land planning, policy or transportation — all those small groups, we are really going to be concentrating on those," Zhao said.

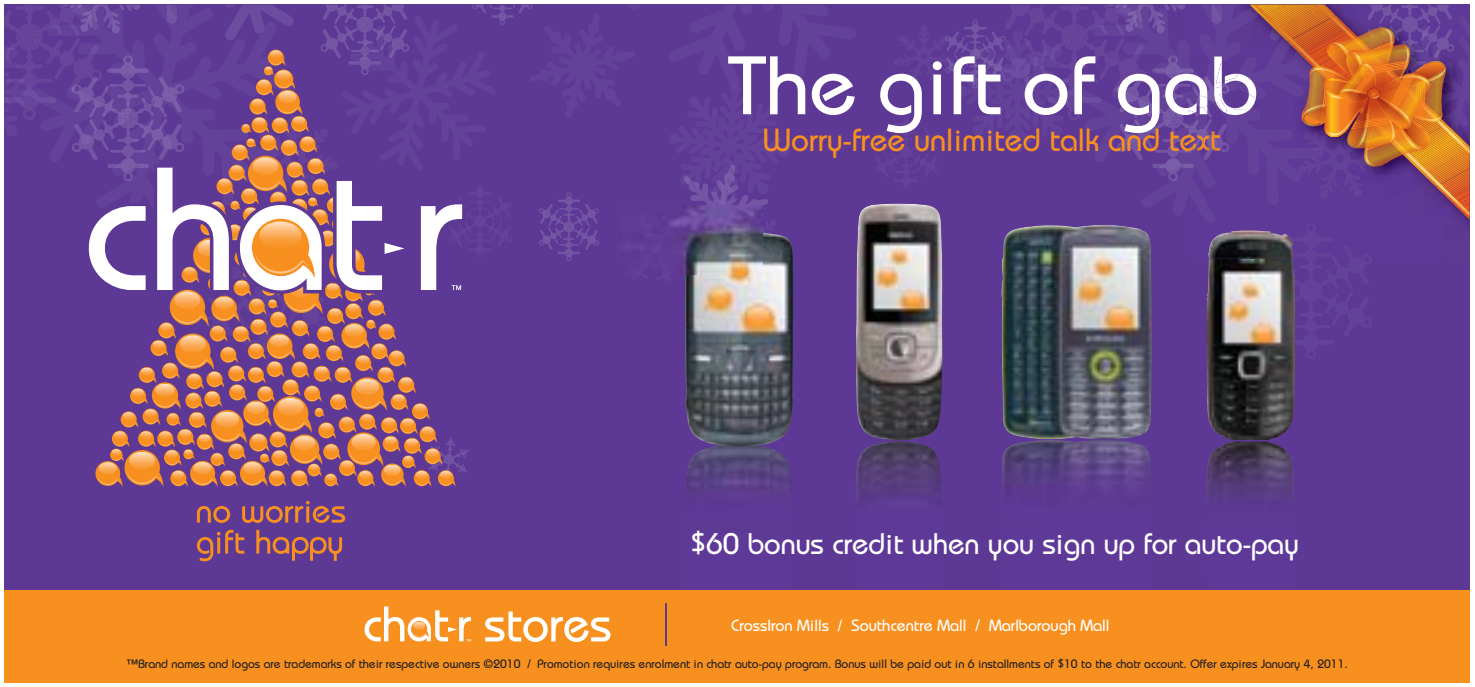
CivicCamp 3-D is free to attend and runs from 9 a.m. to noon. The John Dutton Theatre is located on the second floor of the W.R. Castell Central Library at 616 Macleod Tr. SE. For more information or to reserve a spot at Saturday's meetup, visit civiccamp.org. JEREMY NOLAIS

AMA head apologizes to critic

The head of the Alberta Medical Association has apologized for his role in what government critic Raj Sherman has termed a smear campaign to discredit him as mentally unstable.

"I telephoned Dr. Sherman, and we talked for close to 15 minutes," Dr. Patrick White said in a letter posted Thursday on the AMA website. "I was unequivocal in expressing my deep regret for the way events had transpired."

Fred Horne, who took over Sherman's post as junior health minister, has acknowledged he called White last week to express concerns about Sherman, a mutual friend who had just been kicked out of government caucus for criticizing how health care was being handled. THE CANADIAN PRESS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Seriously, those Wiki leaks are a bit of a giggle

- Merkel's uncreative, Berlusconi's a party boy
- And then there's Gaddafi's voluptuous Ukrainian ...

WIKI LEAKS

World leaders may be doing worldwide damage control amid the WikiLeaks crisis, but for others poring over thousands of secret U.S. documents, there's been an unexpected treasure unearthed .

Laughter.

Springing from the fingertips of buttoned-down American diplomats have been several colourful dispatches about some of the most powerful, famous and feared people on Earth, revealing them to be every bit as human as the rest of us.

Britain's Prince Andrew: He puzzlingly boasts about Britain's superior geography teachers at a lunch with the U.S. ambassador to Kyrgyzstan.

Germany's Angela Merkel: She was described as someone who "avoids risks and is rarely creative."

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi: He is "vain, feckless" and a serious party boy whose late-night revelries prevent him from being an effective leader.

Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi: He needs to be accompanied everywhere by a "voluptuous blond" Ukrainian nurse.

In Asia, diplomats quoted sources describing North Korea's Kim Jong-Il as a "flabby old chap."

Nicolas Sarkozy spent his meeting with the U.S. ambassador chasing a rabbit around his office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oh joy, no joy

- Longtime Canadian diplomat Paul Frazer says his cables stuck to issues — not stories of wild parties.
- "I was in Warsaw in the midst of communism. There wasn't a lot of fun happening."

Ivory Coast. Joy in the streets

▶ Supporters of opposition leader Alassane Ouattara celebrate in Abidjan Thursday.

REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Was it a win — or a 'coup bid'

A senior adviser to Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo has described an electoral commission's announcement of an election victory for the opposition as "an attempted coup." An election runoff was held last Sunday.

3 **WikiLeaks says Mexican officials proposed a strategy for regaining order in three cities —Tijuana. Juarez and Culiacan.**

Mexico's big fear

A Mexican minister told U.S. officials he feared Mexico would lose control of parts of the country to drug traffickers, says WikiLeaks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WikiLeak's Assange on run

Spokesperson says his location is secret

WIKI LEAKS

Sweden's Supreme Court upheld a court order Thursday to detain WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for questioning over allegations of rape and sexual molestation.

The 39-year-old Australian, who denies the accusations made by two Swedish women after his visit to the country in August, had appealed two lower court rulings allowing investigators to bring him into custody and issue an international arrest warrant.

He has not been formally charged.

WikiLeaks has angered the U.S. and other governments by publishing almost half a million secret documents about U.S. diplomatic relations and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Julian Assange

The search for Assange, whose whereabouts is unknown, was stepped up Wednesday as Sweden confirmed it had issued a European arrest warrant for him. Since leaving Sweden, the computer hacker has appeared in Britain and Switzerland but disappeared from public view after a Nov. 5 press conference in Geneva.

He has spoken publicly only through online interviews and WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said late Wednesday the organization was trying to keep his location a secret for security reasons. He noted commentators in the United States and Canada had called for Assange to be hunted down or killed.

Britain's The Guardian, which helped broker the original WikiLeaks dump of Afghan intelligence files, has said Assange is hiding out in southeastern England. The paper did not cite a source for its information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest. Violence

▶ Police clash with demonstrating students outside Greece's parliament, in the latest protest against austerity measures, in Athens, Greece.

THANASIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turmoil in Greece

Police fired tear gas and clashed with youths during the brief incident after some 1,500 people marched through the Greek capital Thursday.

Microbe is out of this world

The discovery of a strange bacteria that uses arsenic as one of its nutrients widens the scope for finding new forms of life on Earth and beyond.

Researchers discovered the bacteria on Earth, but say it shows life has possibilities beyond the major essential elements.

"This organism has dual capability. It can grow with either phosphorous or arsenic. That makes it very peculiar, though it falls short of being some form of truly 'alien' life," commented Paul C. W. Davies of Arizona State University, a co-author of the report appearing in Thursday's online edition of the Journal Science.

Six major elements have long been considered essential for life — carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur.

Researchers discovered the bacteria in Mono Lake, California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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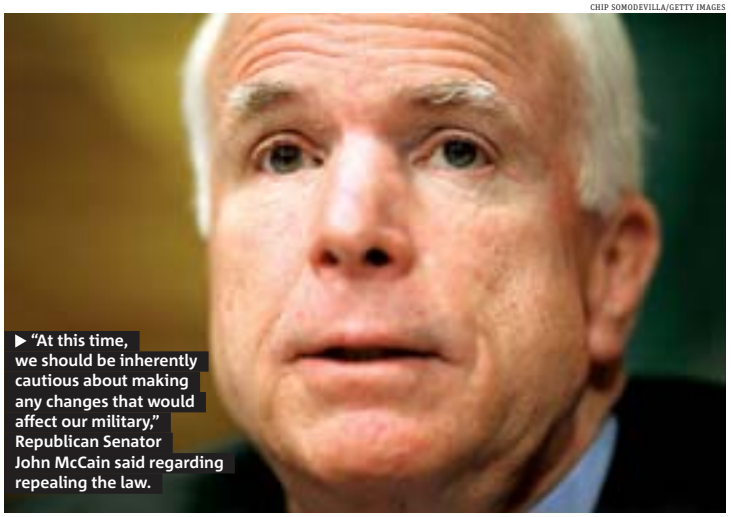

▶ "At this time, we should be inherently cautious about making any changes that would affect our military," Republican Senator John McCain said regarding repealing the law.

McCain snubs U.S. military study on gays

Military's top uniformed officer challenged McCain, saying wartime is ideal time to allow gays to serve openly

Directly challenging the Pentagon's top leadership, a leading Republican senator on Thursday snubbed a U.S. military study on gays as flawed and said letting them serve openly would be dangerous in a time of war.

Senator John McCain's opposition foreshadows the upcoming Senate debate on a bill that would overturn the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law, which bans gays from serving openly in the service.

McCain, a former Navy pilot, comes from a long family line of service in the military. He was a Vietnam era prisoner of war and was the Republican presidential nominee in 2008 who lost to Barack Obama.

All in favour?

- A Pentagon study released this week found that the overwhelming majority of troops were not against seeing the policy repealed.
- But among those who did care, most were troops performing combat arms duties.
- Nearly 60 per cent of those in the Marine Corps and in Army combat units said they thought repealing the law would hurt their units' ability to fight on the battlefield.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, has promised a vote, but McCain has helped to block previous debate on the Senate floor.

Further dimming chances of repeal this month was a recent agreement among Senate Republicans not to vote on any bill before addressing tax cuts and government spending.

Advocates of a repeal had hoped that this week's Pentagon study would have lessened Republican resistance to the bill.

McCain seized on the findings of the study to argue that forcing such a substantial personnel policy change in a time of war would be wrong for the military and the U.S.

He also criticized the study for scrutinizing only how the law could be repealed, instead of whether doing so would benefit the military. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASHIER THEFT

Cigarettes and booze on mayor's credit card

A cashier at a drug store in Washington is accused of stealing the mayor-elect's wallet and using his credit card to buy cigarettes and liquor.

Court documents and surveillance video shows 22-year-old Tamika Garris rang up Vincent Gray's purchases and then picked up his wallet after he left it on the counter. Several hours later, she went to another register and used Gray's credit card to buy cigarettes for $13.

Later, Garris is accused of going to a liquor store and forging the mayor-elect's signature for $25 in liquor.

Garris was arrested Wednesday and charged with credit card fraud. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged arsonist sets himself on fire

Police say a man suffered a self-inflicted setback when he attempted to torch a Montreal pharmacy overnight.

Witnesses said the suspect's coat caught fire as he tried to set the pharmacy ablaze before he made a frantic escape. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sex-workers say laws will loosen

Harper says prostitution is 'bad for society' a view shared by 'most Canadians' Stay pressures government to expedite appeal process

Sex-trade workers will one day be able to legally provide for their families and work in Canada without fear of violence, advocates predicted Thursday, even as Ontario's top court kept prostitution laws in place for now.

A landmark court ruling striking down three key prostitution laws was put on hold until April 29, giving the federal and provincial governments time to appeal.

Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford, one of the three sex-trade workers at the heart of this case, said outside court Thursday that she is confident they will win in the end.

But she suggested Prime Minister Stephen Harper is hiding behind the courts on the contentious issue, and challenged him to "fight like a man."

"He can withdraw this appeal at any moment and change the law through Parliament," she said.

"His silence means that he does not know what to do and is not concerned about the violence against women."

Harper was asked about Bedford's comments after he made an unrelated announcement and seemed tickled.

"I've never been called upon to respond to a dominatrix before," he said with a smirk.

Harper said the government supports the laws and his government looks forward to fighting on appeal to keep them on the books.

Even with the full weight of the federal government on the opposing side, Bedford said she will continue to fight for the safety of other women. Unspecified disabilities have left her unable to "tie people up and spank them" as much as she'd like to these days.

"The only people who benefit from this law right now are tax evaders and organized crime," she said.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford, left, Nikki Thomas and law professor Alan Young on the steps of Osgoode Hall Thursday after Justice Rosenberg of The Ontario Court of Appeal granted a stay on three prostitution-related laws until April 29.

"The women need to be able to call the police when they're beat up by the pimps and the johns. As it stands right now they can't. They can't press charges because they're carted to jail along with (the assailants)."

In September, Ontario Superior Court Judge Susan Himel struck down laws against keeping a common bawdy house, communicating for the purposes of prostitution and living on the avails of the trade.

Prostitution was not illegal in Canada, but the court struck down three provisions that criminalized most aspects of prostitution. Criminal Code offences dealing with people under 18 are not affected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Summer appeal

A schedule worked out by lawyer Alan Young, representing sex-trade workers, and government lawyers says an appeal will be heard in the summer.

- **It will likely end up** before the Supreme Court. Young believes Justice Susan Himel's decision will stand.
- **"The only really** important issue right now is whether the law is going to be applied in the short term," Young said.
- **"These laws are necessary** to protect not only the individuals ... but the communities as well," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said.

Harper backs fretting Afghan ambassador

Says it's known Canada has been 'outspoken in its concerns about some aspects of Afghan governance'

WIKI LEAKS

Published reports say William Crosbie, Canada's Afghan ambassador, fears criticisms he made about Afghan president Hamid Karzai could damage Canada's relations with the leader.

Crosbie reportedly warned Ottawa that a U.S. diplomatic cable with the criticisms will soon be published on WikiLeaks, and has offered to step down.

When asked whether Crosbie's criticisms went too far, Harper said "Crosbie doesn't represent the government of Afghanistan, he represents the government of Canada in Afghanistan."

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Stephen Harper

He said Ottawa will continue to express those concerns "emphatically to our counterparts in Afghanistan."

The reports quote Crosbie saying he was very critical about the misuse of power of Karzai and his family.

Last month, Harper said the Afghan government doesn't deserve a "dime" of foreign aid money until it cleans up its act on combating corruption.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Button. Lights

▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper with his daughter Rachel.

Turning on the holiday spirit

Along with Russell Mills, chairman of the National Capital Commission and speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken, Stephen Harper and his daughter pushed a giant button to mark the official illuminating of Parliament Hill Christmas lights in Ottawa on Thursday.

Reducing Radiation

Chicago's Image Wisely campaign pledges to use the least radiation on patients during medical procedures. A panel at a radiology meeting yesterday said the campaign may lead to more review of protocols, accreditation of imaging facilities and widely shared standards on proper radiation doses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minks own the island

The minks who choose Toronto Islands as their home have done what others have only dreamed: they circumvented the 40-year waiting list.

According to islanders, the minks crossed over a few years ago.

Minks have always hid in the city's watery corners.

KATIE DAUBS STAFF REPORTER

Crossbow murder

A crossbow was used to kill a man in a Toronto public library, police said yesterday.

A man in his 40s was shot in the back with an arrow. Police said a suspect in his 30s was arrested minutes later in the east end. Residents nearby said they were bewildered by the unusual attack.

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Wobbly. Economy

▶ A man holds a placard advertising low-cost meals earlier this week in Dublin, Ireland.

PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

Taking to the streets

The Irish economy has faltered after years of growth, and European Union finance ministers recently OK'd an aid package totalling 85 billion euros ($112 billion).

Study: Women don't get credit for cash smarts

- Findings show media paint women as meek on money
- Most Canadian women confident about money matters

Canadian woman, it seems, are more than capable when it comes to managing their personal and household finances.

However, whether those abilities are being accurately portrayed or perceived was enough to prompt one financial expert to commission the study entitled Financial Lives of Girls and Women.

Barbara Stewart, a portfolio manager at Cumberland Private Wealth Management Inc., hired Angus Reid Public Opinion to examine what she views as a "fundamental disconnect" between how women describe their ability to manage their personal finances and what they actually do.

"Paradoxically, while women are in fact confident in financial matters, many persist in using self-deprecating language when asked about their ability to manage their finances," said Stewart, in a white paper containing the results.

"This outdated script is not useful for women and their finances and it is not consistent with reality."

About 1,000 women participated. Stewart also conducted 25 one-on-one separate interviews with additional women and focus groups were employed to back up the results published in a white paper exploring the findings.

The results showed that 6 out of 10 Canadian women feel very or moderately confident when it comes to understanding personal finance.

Stewart said in her experience women are far more financially astute than they are given credit for.

But, she said the majority of studies focus on women's emotional response to finance or how they feel about their investments rather than what they did.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

48%

When it comes to getting financial news, about 48 per cent of women chose newspapers and 33 per cent picked up financial knowledge through television.

97%

About 97 per cent believe it is important to teach children and youth about managing money and 83 per cent have taken steps to education their children about finance.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 15.18 (13,163.53)	+ 1.28¢ (99.61¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ $1.25 US ($88.00 US)	1,000 cu ft $4.343 (+ 7.4¢) Gold contracts $1,389.30 (+ $1.00)

Act targets ticket resales

Ontario passed a new law yesterday to stop U.S. entertainment giant Ticketmaster from selling and then reselling tickets to the same event, but the Opposition warned it will do nothing to end scalping or keep prices down.

The Liberal government, supported by the NDP, passed the Ticket Speculation Act, which Attorney General Chris Bentley said will ensure people have fair access to concerts, theatrical or sporting events.

.THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTENT COMPETITION

Shaw calls for online regulation

Telecom company Shaw Communications is calling on the CRTC to regulate certain aspects of the Internet to protect Canadian broadcasting.

The cable carrier, broadcaster and Internet provider told a Commons heritage committee Thursday that online movie providers Netflix, Hulu and video site Google TV are undermining Canadian broadcasters' ability to pay for domestic content.

Shaw executives said the Calgary-based company, which recently bought Canwest Global, pays about $150 million a year for local content and to support Canadian producers through the Canadian Media Fund. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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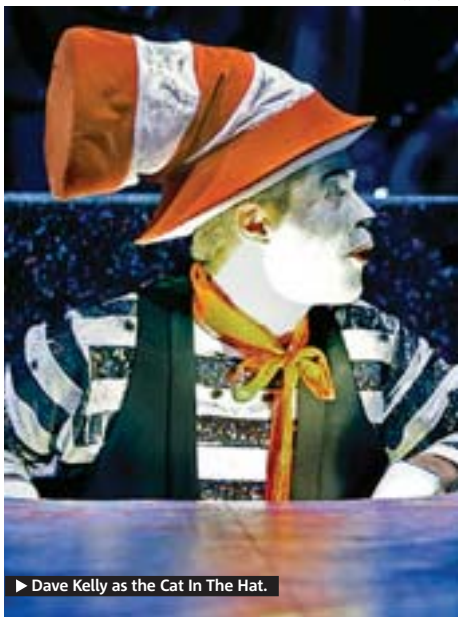

▶ Dave Kelly as the Cat In The Hat.

5 MINUTES WITH: DAVE KELLY

Dave Kelly is the former host of Breakfast Television. He is currently playing the Cat In The Hat in Alberta Theatre Projects production of Seussical the Musical.

The Dr. Seuss books are iconic, what's it like playing one of those characters?
Yesterday, I popped on stage through a trap door. It was packed with a school show and all of the kids go, "That's the cat! That's the cat!" because of the hat. It's really funny, every other character, like Horton ... is a big guy with a great voice, but he's not wearing a big prosthetic nose or anything like that, but because I have that hat, everybody knows that's the Cat In The Hat, so there's a bit of pressure and it's kind of fun.

Did you read a lot of Dr. Seuss to prepare?
Yeah, as dumb as it sounds. I, of course, read them all as a kid but I didn't remember, he's a little devious, the cat. He's not just kind of fun, he likes to stir the pot and make a mess. He does clean it up but he has no problem being very anti-authority. It's kind of fun.

Do you find it difficult playing such an eccentric character?
No ... I mean, obviously, there's a script but I get to sort of be as crazy as I want to be and as crazy as the cat is.

What can people expect when they go to see the show?
It's every Seuss character you can imagine on stage, so you get to meet Horton and Mayzie and Gertrude and JoJo and Wickersham, and even the Grinch makes a special cameo. And, of course, the cat. It's kind of based around Horton Hears A Who. It's basically the Horton story with all the characters helping to tell the story.

You've spent a lot of time in front of an audience over the years, what do you like so much about being on stage?
I'm a little ADD I think, so what's great is it focuses you, you don't have time to wander around, you have to focus and I like that. And I've always loved telling stories and this is just another way to tell a story.

KATIE TURNER

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Building up a good sweat

Worth mentioning

The UN weather agency says this year is "almost certain" to rank among the three hottest years on record.

And 2001-10 is undoubtedly the warmest 10-year period since the beginning of weather records in 1850, the agency said Thursday.

Data from the World Meteorological Organization released at UN climate negotiations confirmed a warming trend that has gone on for decades, which scientists attribute to man-made pollution trapping heat in the atmosphere.

WMO secretary general Michel Jarraud said this year's temperatures through October were at near-record levels. Data for November and December will be analyzed in early 2011, but were expected to be slightly cooler than normal. Still, there is a "significant possibility 2010 could be the warmest," Jarraud told reporters. The two other extraordinary years were 1998 and 2005. Jarraud said these three steaming years were within a fraction of a degree — 0.02 C — of each other.

This year also saw startling weather events: A deadly summer heat wave in Russia with temperatures in Moscow soaring to a record 38.2 C. Devastating floods in Pakistan were part of the same weather anomaly, Jarraud said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian heat wave

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Do you think the economic stimulus plan is working?

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Metro Minute at carol festival

December has only just begun, but organizers at Knox United Church are already showing their true holiday spirit.

Starting tonight and running through Sunday, the church will keep a more than 30-year tradition alive by hosting its annual carol festival. Each night will feature 12 talented choirs performing their finest musical selections.

If you plan to attend, organizers request that you bring a donation for the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank. The festival gets underway each night at 7.

Knox United Church is located at 506–4th St. SW.

For more information, visit knoxunited.ab.ca.

METRO

Three days to play

WITH THE PARK AND RIDE FEE DROPPED, WILL YOU BE MORE LIKELY TO RIDE TRANSIT?

Matthew St. Lewis
CALGARY
Wow, that's actually excellent. I drive but I can probably just jump on the train more often now.

Jamie Kelso
CALGARY
I do anyways ... but it's nice they got rid of it. It's already quite expensive for subpar service. You should get what you pay for.

OWN IT ON DVD & BLU-RAY TOMORROW

Director of Academy Award winning film The Lives of Others takes on a big budget action-romance in The Tourist ◐ Finding a balance between humour and seriousness ◐ How it's tough to cast women opposite the scintillating Angelina Jolie

▶ Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie

From the Cold War to hot romance

NED EHRBAR
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

After earning international acclaim — and an Academy Award — for his dark Cold War drama and debut film The Lives of Others, German-born director Florien Henckel von Donnersmarck wanted to try a slightly different change of pace. And he couldn't have gotten much more different tonally than The Tourist, a big-budget romance caper starring Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. Henckel von Donnersmarck spoke with Metro about fixing up the film's script, cutting out laughs and why Angelina Jolie doesn't have any female co-stars.

You're credited with writing the film, along with two other writers. Can you take us through the process of each writer's contribution?

Since so much of it was before I came on board, I don't really know. I read a script that Julian Fellowes, Christopher McQuarrie and, I think, three or four others had contributed to. Or four or five others. I mean, it was massive. And still it was a script that nobody — and I'm sure those two actors — would have been happy with. It was just one of those scripts that had been developed into so many different directions under so many different influences. You could tell that it was slightly somehow a schizophrenic script.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Florien Henckel von Donnersmarck

What were your biggest changes to the script when you took it on?

I wanted to make it into a true love story between these people, and I also wanted people to think throughout the whole film, "Is this guy the person they're looking for or not?" And for them to flip back and forth. For this not to be a film that somehow a surprise comes out of nowhere at the end, but for it to really be a constant cat-and-mouse game. And then it was also shaping in the characters, giving them a kind of humour and humanity.

The finished film has a distinct sense of fun to it.

The interesting thing, when I screened a rough cut for the first time, for some people, it played really well, but it played too much like a comedy. People were laughing so much, and then I realized I'd gone a little too far in that whole kind of comedy thing. So I actually started cutting out a lot of the humour. … I don't want people to be laughing in this film, I want them to be smiling.

I noticed there are hardly any other women on screen besides Angelina Jolie.

There's not a single other female speaking on screen. I feel she's so scintillating and exciting as a woman, it's hard for other women to really be able to shine next to her. … She's enough woman for an entire film.

2 scene

News in brief

Actor Chuck Norris for years played a Texas Ranger on television. Now he's going to become one in real life.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry is scheduled to present the actor and executive director of Walker, Texas Ranger with a designation as an honorary member of the famed law enforcement group Thursday.

Ceremonies to honour the 70-year-old martial arts star will take place at a Texas Rangers office in suburban Dallas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police: 'Person of interest' in Hollywood publicist's slaying shoots, kills self at L.A. hotel

"ECLIPSE IS THE BEST TWILC

BALLET TRANSLATES WELL TO BIG SCREEN

Ballet is inherently dramatic so it is no wonder the movies have frequently looked to pointe shoes and bun heads for inspiration. The first ballet moves captured on film were likely in turn-of-the-last-century animated films of Alexander Shiryaev, whose crude but beautiful films used drawings and puppets as an early form of dance notation.

Since then the movies have been dancing with the stars. Everyone from legendary performers like Mikhail Baryshnikov to gifted amateurs like Natalie Portman, who plays a beautiful but troubled ballerina in this weekend's dark drama Black Swan, have done a cinematic grand jeté or two.

The most classic ballet movie has to be The Red Shoes. The 1948 classic interweaves on and off stage action to tell the story of a ballerina pulled between two men — a composer who loves her and an impresario who wants to make her a star. The British Film Institute labeled it one of "the best British films ever" and the movie inspired Kate Bush's song and album of the same name.

The Red Shoes was nominated for four Oscars and took home a pair, which is two more than our next ballet film, even though it was nominated for eleven. The Turning Point (which ties The Color Purple for most nominations with no wins) starred Shirley MacLaine and Anne Bancroft as life long rivals; one who left the ballet to become a wife and mother, the other who stayed and became a star. Audrey Hepburn, Doris Day and Grace Kelly were all offered the lead roles, but turned them down. After seeing the movie Hepburn regretted her decision.

"That was the one film," she said, "that got away from me."

There are dozens of Hollywood ballet movies. It's almost tutu much (you had to know that pun was coming); White Nights, Center Stage (with Avatar's Zoe Saldana), Billy Elliot, The Company (made with the cooperation of the Joffrey Ballet) and even the South Korean horror film Wishing Stairs feature stories about fictional ballet dancers, but there are many interesting ballet documentaries as well.

The history of the Ballet Russe of Monte Carlo is touchingly and lovingly told in Ballets Russes, an intimate documentary focused on the founders of modern ballet. Also fascinating is La danse — Le ballet de l'Opéra de Paris, director Frederick Wiseman's fly-on-the-wall look at the production of seven ballets by the Paris Opera Ballet.

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GHT SO FAR!" CHRIS KNIGHT, NATIONAL POST

Tarantino served up and roasted

Director's long-delayed roast was a record-setter for attendance Roth steals the show with offside jokes

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Filmmaker Eli Roth, left, actor Samuel L. Jackson and director Quentin Tarantino, right, attend the Quentin Tarantino Friars Club Roast at the New York Hilton Hotel on Wednesday.

Filmmaker Eli Roth brought shock and awe to the podium of a Friar's Club Roast of actor Quentin Tarantino on Wednesday night, saying it was a roaster's responsibility to be sick and distasteful.

He didn't disappoint, covering ground that would make Richard Pryor blush — and offering no apologies.

"Pretty much what people say about Hostel 2, I want them to say about my speech," Roth said referring to his 2007 horror flick.

Roth ripped the Weinstein's — filmmakers Harvey and Bob — who were sitting on the dais, joked about dead comic Greg Giraldo and poked fun at Tarantino's physical appearance. He also alluded to Tarantino's alleged foot fetish saying, "Quentin's got a bigger collection of women's shoes than Dachau."

Joining Roth at the event in New York was Sarah Silverman, Uma Thurman, Brett Ratner and roastmaster Samuel L. Jackson, who referred to the pack as a "true collection of freaks." Then he thanked Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, for designing Tarantino's face, and kicked off the show.

Originally scheduled for October, the roast was postponed because of the death of Tarantino's longtime film editor and close friend Sally Menke. Freddie Roman of the Friar's Club said he feared the change in dates would lead to a lower turnout, but it seemed to have the opposite effect.

The event packed the Hilton ballroom, drawing a record-setting crowd of nearly 2,300. That's unprecedented for the fraternal organization.

While some of the acts were clearly funny, others were not as engaging. Harvey Keitel spent more time talking about Reservoir Dogs than making jokes. Ratner, a director, missed some of his timing cues, and Michael Madsen looked as if he had just rolled out of bed. While Keitel was spared by most, Ratner and Madsen were heavily attacked throughout the show.

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5 top lesbian scenes

Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis play bitter ballet rivals in Darren Aronofsky's trippy Black Swan. But the heightened emotion they feel for each other ends up bubbling over into a passionate sex scene that's had people talking for months before the film's release.

Well, now Black Swan is almost here, so it's a great opportunity — and not gratuitous at all, really — to take a look at the five most famous lesbian scenes on film.

A side note: Showgirls might have been a serious contender, but it appeared last week among the five most irresistible guilty-pleasure movies. It is tempting to find a reason to talk about Showgirls every week, though...

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mulholland Dr. (2001)

The first intimate encounter between Naomi Watts and Laura Elena Harring is soft and sweet ... but because this is a David Lynch movie, naturally the relationship between these two women becomes darker and more complicated.

Watts, as aspiring starlet Betty Elms (at this point in the film, at least), gets tangled up with Harring's gorgeous amnesiac Rita. As the two embark on an adventure, playing girl-detective to solve the mystery of Rita's past, their fear and loneliness lead to a kiss which leads to one of the loveliest lesbian scenes ever filmed. In a movie full of twists, this is a rare moment of pure, instinctive emotion.

Cruel Intentions (1999)

The most chaste of the five on this list, but it did earn Sarah Michelle Gellar and Selma Blair the highly coveted "Best Kiss" prize at the MTV Movie Awards.

In this prep-school version of Dangerous Liaisons, Gellar functions in the Glenn Close role as a conniving and manipulative rich girl who dominates Manhattan's Upper East Side. Blair is in the Uma Thurman role as a malleable innocent.

Since Blair's character has never kissed a boy before, Gellar's teaches her what to do during a picnic in Central Park: "I'm gonna stick my tongue in your mouth, and when I do that I want you to massage my tongue with yours." It all sounds pretty straightforward.

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Bound (1996)

Before The Wachowski Brothers entered the Matrix, the writing-directing duo made their debut with this funny, tense and sexy neo-noir.

Jennifer Tilly plays Violet, the seemingly ditzy girlfriend of a mobster; Gina Gershon plays Corky, the maintenance woman in their apartment building who just got out of prison. Violet's attraction to Corky is instantaneous, and eventually the two cook up a scheme to steal $2 million in stashed cash from Violet's boyfriend.

A ridiculous amount of contrived meetings and flirting leads to an intense — but artfully photographed — love scene between the two women.

Wild Things (1998)

It starts out as a face-slapping, hair-pulling cat fight in a swimming pool and ends up in a make-out session, complete with bikinis and T-shirts being tossed aside with sultry music in the background.

Denise Richards plays the naughty rich girl and Neve Campbell plays the naughty poor girl; despite coming from opposite sides of the tracks, they manage to get together to concoct some rape accusations against their high school guidance counsellor (Matt Dillon).

The fact that this takes place in South Florida makes the whole movie feel even more steamy and tawdry. Wild Things easily could have made last week's guilty-pleasure list, too. It's so multipurpose.

D.E.B.S. (2004):

As if it weren't enough to have a bunch of beautiful, teenage spies dressed in naughty schoolgirl outfits, their leader (Sara Foster) ends up secretly falling for the deadly criminal (Jordana Brewster) who is their primary target.

Writer-director Angela Robinson's film isn't exactly great cinema but it also doesn't take itself too seriously, and features plenty of fun, cheeky moments. (Its tagline: "They're crime-fighting hotties with killer bodies.")

That's indeed true of Foster and Brewster, who share a few kisses and teasing moments before their eventual playful and passionate hook-up.

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CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Alpha and Omega (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:7
Despicable Me (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:10
Hereafter (PG) Fri-Thu 3:35-6:45-9:25
Inception (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:10-8:15
It's Kind of a Funny Story (PG) Fri-Thu 9:45
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-7:15
Life as We Know It (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:10-9:30
Nanny McPhee Returns (G) Fri-Thu 12:40
Secretariat (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:35
The Social Network (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05-6:40-9:25
The Town (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-8:05
You Again (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:55-9:30
You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:25-7:15-10:05 Wed 3:25-7:15-10:05 Thu 12:40-3:25-7:15-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Due Date (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-6:50-9:45
Faster (14A) Fri-Tue 12:55-4:10-7:25-10:10 Wed 4:10-7:25-10:10 Thu 12:55-4:10-7:25-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2-3:30-6:30-7-10-10:30
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Wed 7
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:35-10:20
Megamind 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:15-6:45-9:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Pasquale Encore (STC) Sat 11
Morning Glory (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:50-6:45-10:25 Wed 12:45-3:50-10:25 Thu 12:45-3:50-6:45-10:25
National Theatre Live: Hamlet (STC) Thu 8
The Next Three Days (PG) Fri 12:50-3:55-7:10-10:10 Sat 3:55-7:10-10:10 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:10-10:10
Red (14A) Fri-Wed 1:40-7:15 Thu 1:40
Tangled (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:20-9:50
Tangled 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:40-3:10-7:05-9:40
Unstoppable (PG) Fri-Wed 4:30-9:55 Thu 4:30

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

127 Hours (14A) Fri 7:30-10 Sat 12:40-3:50-7:30-10 Sun 12:40-3:50-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
Burlesque (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat 12:20-3:30-7-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:45
Fair Game (PG) Fri 7:45-10:30 Sat 12:50-4-7:45-10:30 Sun 12:50-4-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:45-10:10 Sat 12-3:20-6:45-10:10 Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 6:40-10:05
Inside Job (PG) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:30-9:40 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 9:40
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri 7:15-10:20 Sat 12:30-3:40-7:15-10:20 Sun 12:30-3:40-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 7-9:55

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Burlesque (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-7-9:50

HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal star in the emotional comedy Love & Other Drugs, which opened last week.

Due Date (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:05-9:40
Faster (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:35-10:15
Guzaarish (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2-4:50-8
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-1:15-1:45-3:30-4-4:30-6:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:30-10
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:05
Megamind (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10
Megamind 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:30-9
Morning Glory (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:40-9:20
The Next Three Days (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-6:55-10
Red (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:35
Tangled (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3-6:45-9:15
Tangled 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:3-40-7:15-9:45
Unstoppable (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-7:25-9:55

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

Burlesque (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:45-4:15-7:30-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 12:45-4:15-7:30-10:15
Due Date (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:45-10:10
Faster (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:50-7:10-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 1:20-3:50-7:10-9:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:45-12:15-3:15-3:45-6:45-7:15-10:10:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 11:45-12:15-3:15-3:45-6:45-7:15-10
Love & Other Drugs (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:20
Megamind 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:23-3:30-6:30-9:15
Morning Glory (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:10-6:40-9:50
Tangled 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 1-4-7-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 1-4-7-9:30
Unstoppable (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:45

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (14A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
The Infidel (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Alpha and Omega (G) Fri-Thu 1-4
Break Ke Baad (PG) Fri-Tue 9 Thu 9
Despicable Me (G) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:50-6:40 Wed 12:55-3:50 Thu 12:55-3:50-6:40
Guzaarish (PG) Fri-Tue 8:30 Thu 8:30
Jackass 3 (R) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55 Wed 1:05-4:05 Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55
Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Sey (STC) Fri-Tue 2-7:30 Wed 2 Thu 2-7:30
Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45
Life as We Know It (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:40 Wed 12:45-3:40 Thu 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:40
Paranormal Activity 2 (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:10-7-9:50 Wed 1:15-4:10 Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:50
The Social Network (PG) Fri-Tue 6:50-9:30 Thu 6:50-9:30
The Town (14A) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35 Wed 12:45-3:35 Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
You Again (G) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:55-6:55-9:45 Wed 12:50-3:55 Thu 12:50-3:55-6:55-9:45

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:30
Due Date (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-2-4:30-7:45-10:15
Fair Game (PG) Fri 1:10-4:05-7:20-10:15 Sat 4:05-7:20-10:15 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:20-10:15
Faster (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:45-10:10 Fri-Sat 12:15-1-3:45-5-7:15-9-10:45 Sun-Tue 12:15-1-3:45-5-8-9 Wed 12:15-1-3:45-5-9 Thu 12:15-1-3:45-5-8-9
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Wed 7
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Wed 1-3:50-7:15-10 Thu 3:50-7:15-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Megamind (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40
Megamind 3D (G) Fri-Tue 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:20 Wed 12-2:30-7:30-10:20 Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Pasquale Encore (STC) Sat 11
Morning Glory (PG) Fri-Wed 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:05 Thu 1:05-4:10-10:05
National Theatre Live: Hamlet (STC) Thu 8
The Next Three Days (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:20 Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10
Red (14A) Fri-Thu 7:05-10
Skyline (14A) Fri-Tue 8-10:25 Wed 10:25 Thu 8-10:25
Tangled (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:45-7-9:45 No Passes Thu 3:45-7-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Tangled 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:35-12:10-2:10-2:50-4:45-5:20-7:25-10:05 No Passes Wed 11:35-12:10-2:10-2:50-4:45-5:20-7:25-10:05 No Passes Thu 11:35-12:10-2:10-2:50-4:45-5:20-7:25-10:05
Unstoppable (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:15-4:50-7:25-10:10

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

A Film Unfinished (14A) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat 12:50-2:50-7:10-9:10 Sun 12:50-2:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Silent Night, Deadly Night (18A) Thu 9:30
The Social Network (PG) Fri-Sat 4:45 Sun 4:45-9 Mon-Wed 9

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:50-6:55-9:55
Due Date (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3-7:15-9:45
Faster (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:25-7:20-10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:35-7-10:35 Fri-Tue 11:30-1-3:05-4:35-6:35-8:05-10:10 Wed 11:30-3:05-4:35-6:35-8:05-10:10 Thu 11:30-1-3:05-4:35-6:35-8:05-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:05
Megamind 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-6:40-9:20
The Next Three Days (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:45-6:50-10:25
Skyline (14A) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:25-7:35-10:15
Tangled (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:15-3:10-7:05-9:50 No Passes Wed 3:10-7:05-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:15-3:10-7:05-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Tangled 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-2-5-7:50-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:25-2-5-7:50-10:30
Till My Heartaches End (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:55-7:30-10:30
Unstoppable (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:50-6:45-9:35

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Catfish (PG) Fri 4:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-4:50 Mon-Thu 4:50
Fubar 2 (18A) Fri 7:20-9:10 Sat-Sun 9:10 Mon-Wed 7:20-9:10 Thu 9:10
Life During Wartime (14A) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 2:40-5 Mon-Tue 5 Thu 5
Mustard Seed Screening: One Problem (STC) Wed 6
Oil Literacy Screening (STC) Sun 7
Tamara Drewe (STC) Fri 6:50-9 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:30-6:50-9 Mon-Thu 6:50-9

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

Burlesque (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:50
Due Date (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:45 Mon-Wed 5:50-8:35 Thu 5:50
Faster (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:20-7:45-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 2:40-6:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 7 Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30-7:10:20 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:15
Love & Other Drugs (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:45
Megamind 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-6:40-9:10 Mon-Wed 5:20-7:40 Thu 5:20-7:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Pasquale Encore (STC) Sat 11
Morning Glory (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-7:05 Mon-Thu 5:25
National Theatre Live: Hamlet (STC) Thu 8
The Next Three Days (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:35-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10
Tangled 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 6-8:30
Unstoppable (PG) Fri-Sun 3:10-9:35 Mon-Wed 7:50 Thu 7:40

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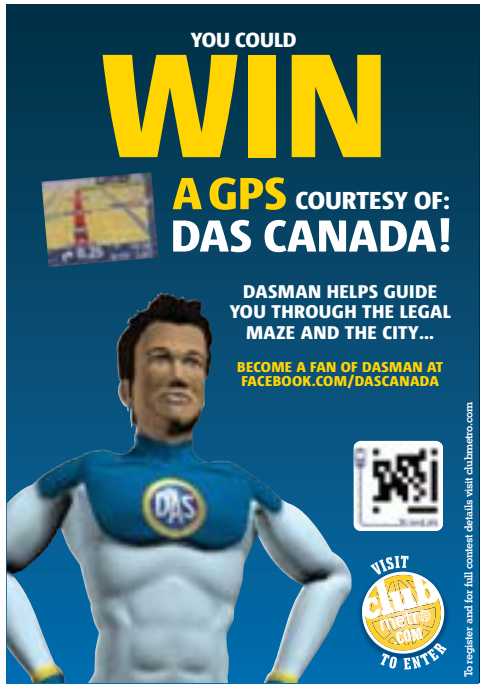
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He's a playboy past his prime

Actor Bakula leads on many a lady in Men of a Certain Age ● New comedy backed by Ray Romano

▶ Scott Bakula plays at single life in Men of a Certain Age.

Scott Bakula, husband and father of four, gets a kick out of portraying a feckless playboy at mid-life on TNT's Men of a Certain Age.

"I don't hope and dream of that other lifestyle, but it's fun to play a character that's living it. I have friends who live it, and I'm happy to let them have it because it's not an easy road out there," said Bakula, who plays Terry on the series that also stars Ray Romano and Andre Braugher.

"It's a struggle for my friends trying to date younger women or find somebody to get married and have a baby," Bakula said.

When TNT's Men of a Certain Age returns Dec. 6 for its second season, Terry finds he's got decisions to confront about work, life and growing up as he turns 50.

He's making progress, Bakula said. Shelving his dreams of acting success, Terry is working at the car dealership managed by buddy Owen (Braugher) and trying to adjust to the daily grind.

Terry is "such a mess," Bakula said, but he's trying. A rekindled relationship even tests his womanizing ways.

Bakula, 56, whose credits include TV's Quantum Leap and Star Trek: Enterprise and the movie The Informant!, is delighted to be part of a project that he says "felt a little risky." The three middle-age characters at its centre aren't the demographic prized by youth-obsessed advertisers.

"A show like this doesn't get made unless somebody like Ray wants to do it," Bakula said.

He finds irony in its time slot, opposite Monday Night Football.

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Nancy Cartwright on the birth of Bart

As animated mega-show The Simpsons approaches its 500th episode, the voice of many a Springfield resident takes Metro back to the very beginning

TIFFANY ROSE
METRO WORLD NEWS

You may not know her face but her voice is legendary around the world as Bart Simpson from the most successful animation series on the Fox network, The Simpsons. Nancy Cartwright, also voices other characters such as Nelson Muntz, Ralph Wiggum, Todd Flanders and Kearney.

How did you find Bart's voice?

I remember as if it was yesterday. I was called in to the Fox lot to meet Matt Groening to read for the part of Lisa. All I had was the description that she was an eight year-old girl. Matt showed me a picture of Lisa, which helps formulate a sound when you see the jaw of a character, but I got nothing. Yet next to her was the picture of Bart, a 10-year-old school-hating underachiever and proud of it. So wouldn't you rather be Bart? I asked Matt if I could do Bart instead of Lisa and typically I would give about three or four different sounds, but with Bart for some reason it was very clear to me that he sounded just like this (raising her voice an octave higher to sound like Bart). And Matt's eyes nearly popped out of his head!

Did you come up with Bart's catchphrases?

Most of them were in the script. The only one I contributed was 'Eat my shorts!' It was something that came from high school. I said it one time as a comment but it got a big laugh and next thing I know it was written in the script. One time I was coming out of an elevator and the doors were shutting and this kid was wearing a Bart Simpson T-shirt and I said in Bart's voice: "Cool T-shirt man!" (Laughs) I just love watching their reactions.

What is a typical working week as Bart?

This is the best job on the planetIn the production line up the actors record their voices first and then it's edited and then another six months in production for the art work and animation to be completed. Then I go in at the end for either one line or even one word which can take up to about an hour. So my time for one show is like a day at the most.

Have you ever been starstruck by one of the famous guest-stars?

I never knew that I was a starstruck type of person until I worked with Meryl Streep. She played Jessica Lovejoy, the daughter to Rev Lovejoy. I really wanted to get her autograph but I didn't want to come across as a fan. I wanted to be professional so at the end of the recording session, I headed towards the door and I feel a little tap on my shoulder and it was Meryl and she whispered: "You know my kids don't watch my movies they are too young, but they're huge fans of Bart Simpson and I was wondering if I could have your autograph?"

What is your favorite episode?

That's so hard but I tend to love the musicals. I think they are so well done. I loved the Sherry Bobbins episode which was the take off on Mary Poppins. None of us are singers, well except for Yeardley (Lisa's voice) who's a great singer but she won't ever admit it. She sang a killer number, God Bless this Child on Simpsons Sings the Blues.

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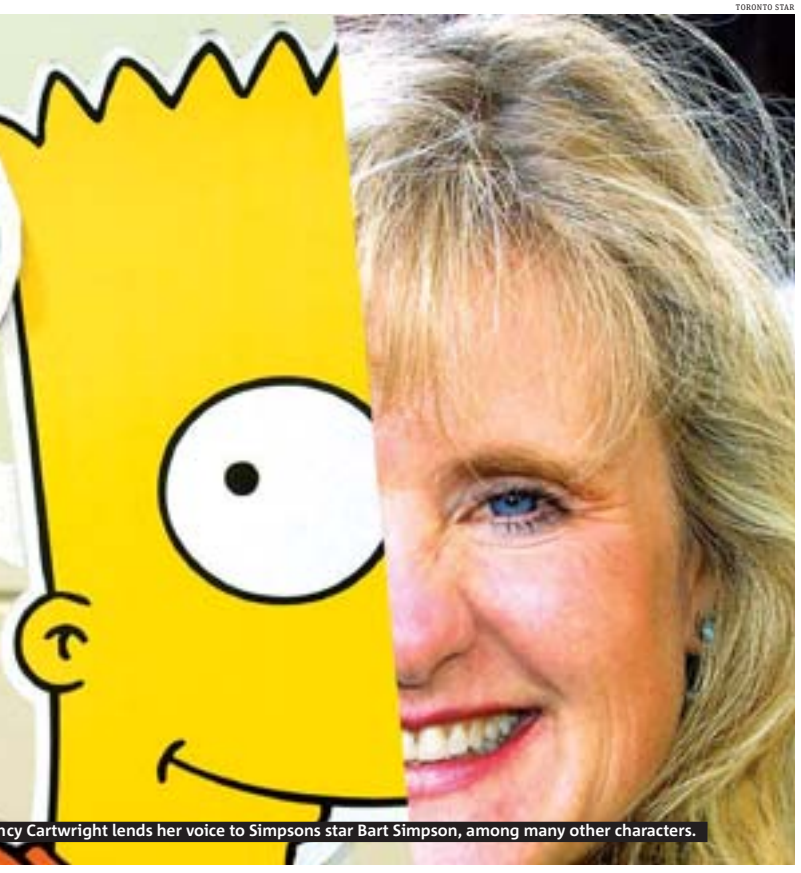

ncy Cartwright lends her voice to Simpsons star Bart Simpson, among many other characters.

TV picks

A hefty dose of diva on E!

REALITY. Get to know tabloid staples Kim, Kourtney and Khloe with a three-day marathon of Keeping Up With The Kardashians, starting today and running through Sunday. The salacious 30-minute series has been E!'s biggest ratings-grabber south of the border, let's see if Canadian viewers embrace the shenanigans as enthusiastically. The show settles into its regular time slot Monday. (Friday, E!)

Violence gets best of Viggo

FILM. Actor Viggo Mortensen and director David Cronenberg began a winning partnership with the gangland thriller, A History of Violence. This 2005 drama centres on a man harassed by criminals after he thwarts a robbery attempt at his diner. Mortensen and Cronenberg reteamed a couple of years later for Eastern Promises and are slated to return to the big screen in 2011 with A Dangerous Method. (Friday, CBC)

Jamie cooks up Christmas

COOKING. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver debuts a new series of five half-hour episodes, all revolving around Christmas. Get tips on saving time with advance prep, preparing a luscious holiday meal, and using up leftovers in Jamie's Family Christmas. (Saturday, Food Network Canada)

De Niro does SNL, again

VARIETY. Film legend Robert De Niro returns to Saturday Night Live to host for the third time. Could it have anything to do with the fact he has a movie coming out in time for Christmas?

This week's musical guest will be the Piddy concoction, Diddy-Dirty Money. (Saturday, Global, NBC)

Sure, when pumpkins fly...

REALITY. Family entertainment doesn't get more basic than the Punkin' Chunkin competition in Bridgeville, Del.

The annual tradition centres on launching pumpkins into the sky with a variety of contraptions. Hosted by Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman of MythBusters. (Sunday, Discovery)

Martha does the Bartman

COMEDY. Martha Stewart injects some holiday spirit into The Simpsons, with a guest spot as "Martha Clause." In this Christmas-themed episode, Marge contacts Martha when she can't get the rest of the family to muster up a sufficient amount of seasonal cheer. (Sunday, Global, Fox)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Music

The Juno Awards are looking back at the past 40 years of music with a new book called Music from Far and Wide.

The hardcover collection of stories, images and anecdotes spans the history of the awards, and also features an introduction by Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy.

INCEPTION
DVD

Christopher Nolan and Leonardo DiCaprio's brainteaser, Inception, gets the small screen release on Tuesday.

Special features include Nolan talking about his unusual concept for the film and the set.

PENGUIN CLASSICS
Charity

To mark World AIDS Day, Penguin Classics and Indigo Books and Music launched a new collection of classic works of literature to raise funds to help eliminate AIDS in Africa. Books in the series include Bram Stoker's Dracula, Henry James' The Turn of the Screw, and Joseph Conrad's The Secret Agent; Chapters.indigo.ca.

GETTTY IMAGES

▶ Oldfield

ROYAL WEDDING
Rumor

All bets are off at one U.K. bookmaker, as the odds put Bruce Oldfield as the overwhelming favourite to design Kate Middleton's dress. Oldfield is no stranger to dressing society figures. To date, he has created gowns for Princess Diana, the British Prime Minister's wife Samantha Cameron and the Duchess of Cornwall, to name a few. However, neither Oldfield nor Prince William's official residence, Clarence House, have confirmed the Royal commission.

HOW TO DISAPPEAR
Book

Looking to get away from it all — or maybe just the holiday season?

Authors Frank M. Ahearn and Eileen C. Horan's How To Disappear offers tips on how to erase your digital footprint, leave false trails, and vanish without a trace.

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN
Fashion

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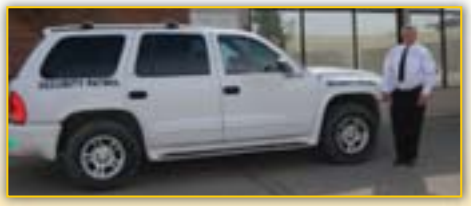
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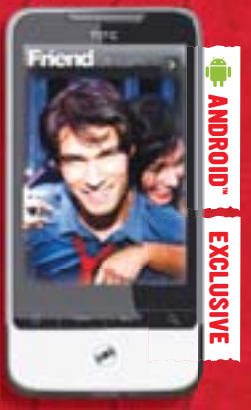

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Mix of Six

BMO Centre

Festival of Crafts

The BMO Centre at Stampede Park will host the Festival of Crafts this weekend from Friday to Sunday.

Admission is $7 for adults, $6 for senior and youth and children under 12 are free.

Christmoose Carol

Loose Moose Theatre

The Loose Moose Theatre is showing the Christmoose Carol on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 to $20 for adults and $12 to $15 for students and the show will take place on the second floor of the Crossroads Market, S.W. Entrance, 1235 26th Ave. S.E.

Calgary Carol

Festival

Knox United Church will be holding a Calgary Carol Festival at 506 4 Street S.W. at 7 p.m.

Friday through Sunday. Admission is a donation to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank.

Christmas Party

For Cats

The Meow Foundation will be hosting the Meow Christmas Party for Cats at the Triwood Community Hall on Sunday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Elves

Musical

The Youth Singers of Calgary will hit the stage Sunday to present Elves, North Pole Musical.

The show begins at 4 p.m. at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets are between $32.40 and $52.40.

Westwinds

Christmas Concert

Westwinds Annual Christmas Concert will take place Monday at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 1415 14 Ave. N.W., beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is $15 for adults, $5 for students and seniors and $2.50 for children under 10.

GETTY IMAGES

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Drake to host Junos in 2011

Drake will come home to host the Juno Awards next year.

The 24-year-old Toronto native will return to his hometown for the awards bash, which will be held at the Air Canada Centre on March 27 and broadcast on CTV.

Drake — whose real name is Aubrey Graham — won his first two Junos at this year's show in St. John's, N.L., taking awards for best new artist and rap recording of the year.

The former Degrassi star won months before releasing his debut album, Thank Me Later, in June.

The record has since been certified platinum in Canada and the U.S.

This year's award show used a rotating cast of presenters, while comedian Russell Peters hosted the two previous Juno broadcasts.

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Aguilera's in love with a new man, but taking it slow

Christina Aguilera is opening up about the new man in her life, Matthew Rutler.

She tells People magazine, "There is love there."

Aguilera, who recently separated from her husband, Jordan Bratman, met Rutler while working with him on Burlesque, her new movie.

"Once I filed for divorce, we started dating," she says. "I'm not trying to jump into anything. I just left a five-year marriage. I'm taking it slow and trying to be happy."

METRO

▶ Aguilera is dating Matthew Rutler.

Snoop Dogg's player anthem for Prince Wills

Everyone seems to be getting excited about Prince William's upcoming wedding to Kate Middleton, including Snoop Dogg, who recorded a new track to be played at William's bachelor party, according to People.

"When I heard the royal family wanted to have me perform in celebration of Prince William's marriage, I knew I had to give them a little something," the rapper says, adding that the track, Wet, is "the perfect anthem for Prince William or any player to get the club smoking."

There's been no official word that he'll be asked to attend the party, though.

METRO

▶ Snoop Dogg has created a song called Wet for Prince Williams' bachelor party.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Britney Spears is denying allegations that her boyfriend is abusive toward her.

Britney strikes back against rumours of abuse

Britney Spears is striking back over rumours and allegations that her boyfriend, Jason Trawick, is abusive toward her.

"Suffice it to say, that Jason Trawick has never laid a hand on Britney," her reps say.

"This is just another example of the irresponsible nature of the tabloid media relying on shoddy sources and false information for the sole purpose of selling magazines, without regard to the truth and without regard to who they hurt in the process.

"These irresponsible statements are defamatory.

"Britney Spears' legal team will be taking legal action against all of the appropriate parties."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

Sarah Silverman [@SarahKSilverman] Elderly woman in line to baord plane turned around and blew a long silent powerful burp onto my face.

Nicole Richie [@nicolerichie] Even though I'm not Jewish, I wouldn't turn away gifts for the next 8 days. Just putting it out there.

Ben Stiller [@RedHourBen] Best present I probably won't use too often: Limited edition 3D glasses from @justinbieber. Or Bieber's people. We're not sure. Thanks JB.

Talking points

Madge's gym lacks permit?

Just two days after opening, Madonna's first in the gym business venture may be in danger of closing, according to Mexican broadcaster Televisa.

The problem seems to be a missing permit. Authorities say it must be obtained.

METRO

3 life

Finally, a guilt-free party food to enjoy

Mini cocktail popovers have the irresistible carbs of a baked good, with less calories

LARRY CROWE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Popovers are an elegant and satisfying way to serve healthy party food.

Want to lighten up your holiday hors d'oeuvres?

Mini cocktail popovers are an elegant and satisfying choice for a healthy party food.

They're hollow in the centre so they pack fewer calories. They also are simple to prepare.

For these cocktail popover variations, a lighter version of the typical popover batter is used.

The recipe contains skim milk and cuts out some of the egg yolks to trim the fat even further. And while a prudent amount of butter is used to add that unmistakable flavour, half of the standard amount is replaced with extra-virgin olive oil.

For the lightest version, you could offer plain popovers or simply add fresh (or dried) herbs such as chives, tarragon or a blend to the batter.

Another way to boost the flavour is to add a few tablespoons of freshly grated Parmesan cheese and ground black pepper.

Other guilt-free variations include stuffing the popovers with whipped light cream cheese and chopped smoked salmon or even a piece of asparagus wrapped in prosciutto.

Ingredients:

Batter
- 250 ml (1 cup) skim milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1 large egg white
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter, melted
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt

Olive Cocktail Popovers
- 24 kalamata olives, pitted and chopped

Herbed Cheese Cocktail Popovers
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) light spreadable garlic and herb cheese

Herbed Pepper Cocktail Popovers
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped peppadew or jalapeno peppers (jalapenos will be hotter)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) finely chopped scallions

Preparation:

1. Start to finish: 40 minutes (10 minutes active). Makes 30 servings.
2. Heat oven to 220 C (425 F). Set 2 mini muffin tins on a baking sheet. Coat tins with cooking spray, then place them (on the baking sheet) into the oven to heat.
3. Meanwhile, to make the batter, in a blender or food processor, combine milk, eggs, egg white, melted butter, olive oil, flour and salt. Blend for 15 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the container, then blend for another 30 seconds.
4. To make olive cocktail popovers, remove muffin tins from the oven and place 1 olive in each cup. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of batter on top of each olive. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and crisp. Serve immediately.
5. To make herbed cheese cocktail popovers, remove muffin tins from oven and spoon a heaping tablespoon of batter into each cup. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and crisp. Remove popovers from pans and set on a rack to cool.
When ready to serve, poke a hole in the bottom of each popover. Put cheese in a small sturdy plastic bag. Gather the bag and squeeze the cheese into one corner. With scissors, snip off the tip of the bag and squeeze 5 ml (1 tsp) of the cheese into each popover. Serve immediately.
6. To make herbed pepper popovers, mix peppers and scallions into batter. Remove muffin tins from oven and spoon a heaping tablespoon of batter into each cup. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and crisp. Remove popovers from pans and set on a rack to cool.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food in brief

Tips for your holiday party:
- For 20 guests, offer eight to 10 easy-to-handle tasty bites. (Six to eight per guest per hour.)
- Try to have preparations done before the guests arrive.
- Aside from alcoholic drinks have festive non-alcoholic alternatives available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Chaim! More kosher liquors bring Hanukkah cheer this holiday season.

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The key to success: local foods

Culinary sustainability isn't just the credo for a pair of multi-talented chefs; it is what they practice from season to season.

Dana Ewart and her partner Cameron Smith are making a name for themselves with their catering business, Joy Road Catering, in Penticton, B.C.

But this isn't an ordinary company. The pair rely on local farmers and other suppliers of home-grown ingredients, which they use in abundance in their business.

"We normally shut down when the harvest is over in the fall, but this year we have booked several Christmas parties and other events," says Ewart, 33.

The pair is well prepared for the Christmas events, says Ewart.

The ingredients for just about every canape and other goody they plan to serve were sourced during previous months from the bounty all around them..

"We canned and pickled things like heirloom tomatoes, asparagus and green beans, colourful carrots and morels," Ewart says.

The morels are wrapped in phyllo pastry and roasted dried or rehydrated for a super stock.

For those who might not have been as far-sighted as these two chefs, there are still lots of root vegetables like parsnips, beets and sweet potatoes that home cooks can use if they want to source local ingredients.

"You can do some really glamorous things with beets," Ewart says. "We make a fresh goat cheese and beet terrine."

Ewart makes crepes and uses her own homemade preserves and savoury spreads to fill them.

Here is a sampling of canapes they will be serving at holiday parties: caramelized onion and shallot tart with creme fraiche, bacon and thyme; wild salmon cakes Thai style with red curry and coconut; hot cream of mushroom soup with parsnip chips and bacon served in tiny cups; local pears with tiger blue cheese, honeycomb and hazelnuts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LeBron burns Cleveland again

Former Cavs star scores 38 points in his first game back in home town

	1	2	3	4	Total
HEAT	16	30	36	36	118
CAVALIERS	16	24	25	25	90

First the Cleveland fans had their say, then LeBron James answered.

James led a 16-0 first-quarter surge that quieted the boos and abuse of fans who used to call him King, scoring 38 points to lead the Miami Heat to a 118-90 victory over the Cavaliers on Thursday night.

It was James' first game back in the city where he played for seven years before leaving via free agency, angering disbelieving fans who considered him one of their own.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points, James Jones 18 and Chris Bosh 15 for the Heat, a star-studded team which has seldom played like one in going 12-8 so far.

Daniel Gibson scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who have lost six of eight and now play seven of their next eight on the road.

James had 10 more points than Cleveland's starting lineup.

Ahead by 19 at the half, the Heat poured it on by shooting 73 per cent from the field in the third quarter, with James going 10 of 12 and Wade hitting all four of his attempts to stretch the lead to 30 points.

James sat on the bench for all of the fourth quarter, with dozens of security guards and police lining the team's entrance to the court and guarding against objects thrown at him. After the final seconds sifted away, he left without incident.

Until then, James frequently bantered with his former coaches with the Cavaliers and even talked to fans at courtside. The native of nearby Akron smiled while shooting free throws, in spite of what seemed like the entire arena chanting.

The early spurt left a crowd of 20,562 with nothing left to cheer except James' occasional missed shot. He didn't miss many, finishing 15 of 25 from the field, to go with eight assists and five rebounds.

James, of course, left the Cavaliers this summer to take his act to sunny Miami. Before the game, fans peppered him with obscene chants and booed every time he appeared on the giant monitors over midcourt.

By the end, though, they were quiet.

"We came in here with one goal and that was to win a basketball game, and we did that. This was our most complete game of the season from start to finish."
LEBRON JAMES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ LeBron James throws powder in the air Thursday prior to playing the Cavaliers.

4 sports

Sports in brief

1 The New York Yankees have increased their contract offer to Derek Jeter.

2 First baseman Adam Dunn has reportedly agreed to join the Chicago White Sox.

3 The Toronto Blue Jays signed hard-luck right-hander Dustin McGowan to a one-year deal worth $450,000 US Thursday.

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To Russia with love

FIFA goes into uncharted territory, handing 2018 World Cup to Russia and 2022 to Qatar

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, centre, greets the Russian delegation in Zurich, Switzerland, Thursday.

FIFA sent the World Cup into uncharted territory Thursday, by handing the 2018 edition to Russia and going to Qatar in 2022.

Russia's selection came despite the no-show of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, but his influence still had an impact on FIFA's 22 voters as the bid won over England, Spain-Portugal and Belgium-Netherlands.

Qatar brings the World Cup to the smallest host ever, but one that has unparalleled financial clout to stage the world's biggest single-sport event. It overcame objections about holding the games in desert heat. It beat the United States in the final round of voting 14-8.

"We go to new lands," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

Often derided as a conservative organization, the decisions were a big gamble for FIFA, which could have gone for assured sporting and commercial success by handing the event to England and the United States.

Yet despite some criticism in FIFA study reports last month of the Russian and Qatar bids, it decided to go deep into Eastern Europe and right into the Persian Gulf.

Following corruption allegations that led to two of the 24 FIFA executive committee members being excluded from the vote, the daring decisions that challenged conventional knowledge are bound to be controversial.

England was eliminated in the first round of 2018 voting, earning only two of the 22 votes. In the second round, Russia won an absolute majority with 13 votes.

"It is a great victory," Russian bid CEO Alexey Sorokin said.

Putin immediately hopped on a plane to Zurich to congratulate the bid team after hearing the result.

After three days of high anxiety when England sent Prime Minister David Cameron, Prince William and David Beckham for intense lobbying and the United States counted on the aura of former president Bill Clinton, none were a match for the novelty promised by Qatar and Russia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miller steps down as Riders head coach

Ken Miller says the decision had been brewing for more than a year.

But that didn't make Thursday's announcement that he was stepping down as head coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders any easier.

"This decision is very emotionally charged for me, a difficult decision," the 69-year-old Miller said during a news conference at Mosaic Stadium. "But even though it's emotional and difficult, it was not a decision made emotionally. It was a decision that was made through objective and rational thought."

Miller, who announced the decision just days after the Riders were defeated by the Montreal Alouettes in the Grey Cup, said a lot of his reasons are personal and family-related.

"In addition to that, I think in the test of time it will prove to be in the best interest of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, an organization that I truly, truly love," said Miller.

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d-Pittsburgh	27	17	8	2	0	82	64	36	8-5-1-0	9-3-1-0	9-0-1-0	W8
d-Montreal	26	16	8	2	0	68	52	34	9-4-2-0	7-4-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Philadelphia	26	15	7	2	2	87	64	34	9-5-0-1	6-2-2-1	5-3-0-2	L3
Tampa Bay	26	14	9	2	1	78	89	31	6-2-1-1	8-7-1-0	6-3-0-1	L1
NY Rangers	27	15	11	1	0	80	74	31	5-7-1-0	10-4-0-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Boston	24	14	8	0	2	70	47	30	5-5-0-2	9-3-0-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Atlanta	26	13	10	1	2	85	80	29	8-5-0-1	5-5-1-1	6-4-0-0	L1
Carolina	24	10	11	0	3	71	78	23	5-5-0-1	5-6-0-2	3-4-0-3	L2
Ottawa	26	11	14	1	0	58	79	23	7-7-0-0	4-7-1-0	3-7-0-0	L2
Buffalo	25	9	13	3	0	62	73	21	4-8-1-0	5-5-1-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Florida	23	10	13	0	0	60	62	20	5-5-0-0	5-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Toronto	24	8	12	2	2	51	70	20	6-5-2-1	2-7-0-1	3-6-1-0	L4
New Jersey	25	8	15	1	1	46	74	18	4-6-1-1	4-9-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
NY Islanders	23	5	13	3	2	54	81	15	3-5-1-1	2-8-2-1	1-7-1-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	22	16	4	1	1	78	59	34	10-1-1-1	6-3-0-0	8-1-1-0	W3
d-Dallas	24	15	8	0	1	70	63	31	9-3-0-1	6-5-0-0	7-2-0-1	W5
d-Vancouver	23	13	7	1	2	75	61	29	8-2-0-1	5-5-1-1	5-4-1-0	W3
Chicago	27	14	11	1	1	86	79	30	6-7-0-0	8-4-1-1	6-3-0-1	W3
Columbus	23	14	8	0	1	65	57	29	6-6-0-1	8-2-0-0	6-3-0-1	L3
Anaheim	27	13	11	2	1	71	80	29	9-4-0-1	4-7-2-0	4-4-2-0	W3
Colorado	24	13	9	2	0	85	74	28	7-4-1-0	5-6-1-0	5-4-1-0	L1
San Jose	24	12	8	4	0	72	68	28	7-4-2-0	5-4-2-0	5-3-2-0	W1
Phoenix	24	12	7	4	1	70	70	28	5-3-2-1	7-4-2-0	8-2-0-0	W1
St. Louis	24	12	9	1	2	63	68	27	8-2-0-1	4-7-1-1	3-6-0-1	L4
Nashville	24	11	8	3	2	58	63	27	4-1-3-2	7-7-0-0	5-3-0-2	W2
Los Angeles	23	13	10	0	0	63	57	26	8-2-0-0	5-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	L4
Minnesota	24	11	11	0	2	58	69	24	7-6-0-1	4-5-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
Calgary	25	10	13	1	1	69	76	22	6-6-0-0	4-7-1-1	3-5-1-1	L1
Edmonton	25	9	12	1	3	68	92	22	3-6-0-1	6-6-1-2	5-4-0-1	W3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Edmonton 5 Toronto 0
Boston 8 Tampa Bay 1
Pittsburgh 3 Atlanta 2
Montreal 5 New Jersey 1
N.Y. Rangers 6 N.Y. Islanders 5
San Jose 4 Ottawa 0
Dallas 2 Washington 1
Florida at Los Angeles
Wednesday's results
Edmonton 4 Montreal 3 (OT)
Vancouver 7 Calgary 2
Anaheim 5 Florida 3
Boston 3 Philadelphia 0
Nashville 4 Columbus 3 (SO)
Phoenix 4 Minnesota 2
Washington 4 St. Louis 1
Tonight's games
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

OILERS 5 MAPLE LEAFS 0

First Period
1. Edmonton, Eberle 5 (Whitney) 3:10
Penalties — MacIntyre Edm, Orr Tor (fighting) 9:31, Gilbert Edm (roughing) 10:09, Whitney Edm (holding) 13:50.
Second Period
2. Edmonton, Hall 7 (Eberle) 6:24
3. Edmonton, Gagner 8 (Paajarvi, Jones) 19:57
Penalties — Cogliano Edm (tripping) 11:29, Schenn Tor (holding) 14:44.
Third Period
4. Edmonton, Hall 8 (Horcoff, Eberle) 16:55
5. Edmonton, Jones 5 (Whitney) 17:29
Penalties — Peckham Edm (tripping) 5:23, Crabb Tor (holding) 7:39, Jones Edm (high-sticking) 10:07, Kadri Tor (hooking) 11:41, Komisarek Tor (cross-checking) 19:35.
Shots on goal by

Edmonton	4	8	7	19
Toronto	12	11	10	33

Goal (shots-saves) — Edmonton: Khabibulin (W,5-10-1); Toronto: Gustavsson (L,3-7-2)(6-4), Giguere (6:24 of the second)(13-11).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Edmonton: 0-4; Toronto: 0-5.
Referees — Chris Ciamaga, Dave Jackson.
Linesmen — David Brisebois, Michel Cormier.
Attendance — 19,465 at Toronto.

CANADIENS 5 DEVILS 1

First Period
1. Montreal, B.Gionta 8 (Hamrlik, Plekanec) 0:11
2. Montreal, Eller 2, 1:38
Missed penalty shot — Plekanec Mon, 7:27.
Penalty — Hamrlik Mtl (hooking) 3:18.
Second Period
3. Montreal, Pyatt 1 (Lapierre, Halpern) 2:30
4. Montreal, Gomez 4 (Weber, Cammalleri) 8:37 (pp)
5. Montreal, Pouliot 6 (Eller, Hamrlik) 9:57
Penalties — Fayne NJ (tripping) 7:38, Hamrlik Mtl, Eller Mtl (tripping) 17:06.
Third Period
6. New Jersey, Arnott 9 (Elias, Zubrus) 8:18
Penalty — C.White NJ (high-sticking) 10:39.
Shots on goal by

Montreal	14	10	8	32
New Jersey	11	11	6	28

Goal (shots-saves) — Montreal: Price (W,15-7-2); New Jersey: Hedberg (L,4-4-1)(3-1), McKenna (1:38 first)(29-26).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Montreal: 1-2; New Jersey: 0-3.
Referees — Ghislain Hebert, Mike Leggo.
Linesmen — Jean Morin, Derek Amell.
Attendance — 11,434 (17,625) at Newark, N.J.

SAN JOSE 4, SENATORS 0

First Period
1. San Jose, Marleau 11 (Boyle, Thornton) 12:49 (pp)
Penalties — Moore SJ (delay of game) 8:28, Gonchar Ott (hooking) 11:53, Boyle SJ (interference) 18:42
Second Period
2. San Jose, Braun 1 (Heatley) 8:22(pp)
Penalties — Heatley SJ (high sticking) 4:45, Foligno Ott (hooking) 7:01
Third Period
3. San Jose, Couture 9 (Ferriero, Clowe) :35
4. San Jose, Couture 10 (Clowe) 6:14
Penalties— Boyle SJ, Neil Ott (roughing) 4:23
Shots on goal by

San Jose	11	9	13—33
Ottawa	13	9	6—28

Goal (shots-saves) — San Jose: Niemi: (W, 4-5-1); Ottawa: Leclaire: (L, 1-6-1)
Power plays (goals-chances) — San Jose: 2-2; Ottawa: 0-3
Referees — Stephen Walcom, Ian Walsh
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Scott Cherrey
Att. — 18,017 (19,153) at Ottawa.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	18	23	41
Stamkos, TB	21	19	40
Ovechkin, Wash	10	23	33
Semin, Wash	18	13	31
St. Louis, TB	10	21	31
Backstrom, Wash	11	19	30
Sharp, Chi	16	13	29
H.Sedin, Vcr	2	27	29
D.Sedin, Vcr	14	14	28
Perry, Ana	12	16	28
E.Staal, Car	12	16	28
B.Richards, Dal	11	17	28
P.Kane, Chi	11	16	27
Byfuglien, Atl	10	17	27
Datsyuk, Det	8	19	27
Getzlaf, Ana	8	19	27
Hejduk, Col	8	19	27
Heatley, SJ	12	13	25

Not including last night's games

GOLF

PGA TOUR Q-SCHOOL

At Winter Garden, Fla.
p-Panther Lake Course (7,223 yards; par-71—35-36); c-Crooked Cat Course (7,493 yards; par-72—36-36)

Chris Baryla	**72p-61c—133**
Ben Martin	66p-68c—134
Kyle Stanley	65c-70p—135
Sunghoon Kang	68c-67p—135
Josh Geary	69c-67p—136
Seung Ho Lee	69c-67p—136
James Driscoll	68p-68c—136
Carlos Franco	70p-66c—136
Cameron Tringale	69p-67c—136
Charles Warren	70p-67c—137
Brandt Jobe	72p-65c—137
Matt McQuillan	**70p-67c—137**
Billy Mayfair	69p-69c—138
Kent Jones	70c-68p—138
Jarrod Lyle	70c-68p—138
Zack Miller	70p-68c—138
Jeff Quinney	74c-65p—139
Danny Wax	69c-70p—139
Scott Weatherly	67c-72p—139
Gary Woodland	71c-68p—139
Roberto Castro	71c-68p—139
J.J. Killeen	71c-68p—139
Brian Bateman	70p-69c—139
Bio Kim	70p-70c—140
Also	
Richard T. Lee	**71p-71c—142**
Matthew Richardson	**74c-69p—143**
Jon Mills	**75p-71c—146**
Ted Brown	**71c-78p—149**
David McKenzie	**75c-74p—149**

PGA CHEVRON WORLD CHALLENGE

At Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Par 72
First Round

Tiger Woods	32-33—65
Rory McIlroy	33-33—66
Graeme McDowell	32-34—66
Dustin Johnson	33-36—69
Stewart Cink	35-34—69

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

At Sydney
Par 72
First Round

Matthew Griffin, Australia	31-34—65
John Senden, Australia	33-33—66
Alistair Presnell, Australia	36-31—67
Bronson La'Cassie, Australia	34-34—68
Marc Leishman, Australia	33-35—68
Also	
Ronald Harvey, Sussex, N.B.	**37-36—73**

NEDBANK CHALLENGE

At Sun City, South Africa
Par 72
First Round

Padraig Harrington, Ireland	34-32—66
Ross Fisher, England	33-34—67
Lee Westwood, England	35-33—68
Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain	35-34—69
Justin Rose, England	33-37—70

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	4	.778	—
New York	10	9	.526	4½
Toronto	7	11	.389	7
New Jersey	6	13	.316	8½
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	9

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	14	4	.778	—
Atlanta	12	7	.632	2½
Miami	12	8	.600	3
Charlotte	6	12	.333	8
Washington	5	12	.294	8½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	9	7	.563	—
Indiana	9	8	.529	½
Cleveland	7	11	.389	3
Milwaukee	6	12	.333	4
Detroit	6	13	.316	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	15	3	.833	—
Dallas	14	4	.778	1
New Orleans	13	5	.722	2
Memphis	8	11	.421	7½
Houston	6	12	.333	9

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	15	5	.750	—
Oklahoma City	13	6	.684	1½
Denver	11	6	.647	2½
Portland	8	10	.444	6
Minnesota	4	14	.222	10

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	6	.684	—
Phoenix	8	9	.471	4
Golden State	8	10	.444	4½
Sacramento	4	12	.250	7½
L.A. Clippers	4	15	.211	9

Last night's results
Miami 118 Cleveland 90
Phoenix at Golden State
Wednesday's results
Atlanta 112 Memphis 109
Oklahoma City 123 New Jersey 120 (3OT)
Toronto 127 Washington 108
Boston 99 Portland 95
Miami 97 Detroit 72
Orlando 107 Chicago 78
New Orleans 89 Charlotte 73
Dallas 100 Minnesota 86
Houston 109 L.A. Lakers 99
Denver 105 Milwaukee 94
Utah 110 Indiana 88
L.A. Clippers 90 San Antonio 85
Tonight's games
New Jersey at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New York at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Boston, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 9 p.m.
Indiana at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	16	142	130	437	27.3
Bryant, LAL	19	171	138	507	26.7
Rose, CHI	15	149	69	387	25.8
Nowitzki, DAL	18	169	96	447	24.8
Westbrook, OKC	19	152	157	467	24.6

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Declined to tender a contract to RHP Matt Albers.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Exercised their 2011 option on the contract of SS Alexei Ramirez. Declined to tender contracts to RHP Bobby Jenks and LHP Erick Threets.
DETROIT TIGERS — Declined to tender a contract to RHP Zach Miner.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with INF Russ Canzler, INF J.J. Furmaniak, RHP Richard De Los Santos, RHP Cory Wade and LHP R.J. Swindle on minor league contracts. Promoted Mark Vinson to assistant trainer.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Dustin McGowan on a one-year contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA BRAVES — Declined to tender a contract to OF Matt Diaz. Agreed to terms with INF/OF Eric Hinske on a one-year contract.
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with INF Jeff Baker on a one-year contract.
FLORIDA MARLINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Javier Vazquez on a one-year contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Declined to tender a contract to RHP Sammy Gervacio.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Released RHP Dinesh Patel, RHP Sheng-Cin Hong and 1B Chih-Wei Hsu.

FOOTBALL

NFL

BUFFALO BILLS — Placed DE Dwan Edwards on injured reserve. Signed TE Mike Caussin.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed RB Josh Vaughan to the practice squad. Released RB Jeremiah Johnson from the practice squad.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed PK Jason Hanson on injured reserve. Signed CB Tye Hill.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed G Stephen Neal on injured reserve.
OAKLAND RAIDERS — Placed QB Bruce Gradkowski on injured reserve. Signed QB J.T. O'Sullivan.

CFL

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed DE Odell Willis to a contract extension.

HOCKEY

NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Reassigned F Josh Brittain from Syracuse (AHL) to Elmira (ECHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned D Nikita Nikitin to Peoria (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Assigned F Alexandre Bolduc to Manitoba (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Signed D Brett Flemming to a three-year contract.

AHL

HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Recalled D David Urquhart from Wheeling (ECHL).
SYRACUSE CRUNCH — Assigned F John Kurtz to Elmira (ECHL).

ECHL

UTAH GRIZZLIES — Activated D Matt Sorteberg, D Brian Kilburg and F Michael Gergen. Announced D Ric Jackman has accepted an offer to play in Europe.

SOCCER

MLS

D.C. UNITED — Announced they will not exercise options on D Barry Rice, D Juan Manuel Pe?a, M Brandon Barklage and M Carlos Varela.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	2	0	.818	334	266
N.Y. Jets	9	2	0	.818	264	187
Miami	6	5	0	.545	205	225
Buffalo	2	9	0	.182	229	295
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	282	252
Jacksonville	6	5	0	.545	240	294
Tennessee	5	6	0	.455	257	218
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	250	188
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	254	181
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	216	229
Cincinnati	2	9	0	.182	225	288
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	285	231
San Diego	6	5	0	.545	310	225
Oakland	5	6	0	.455	255	256
Denver	3	8	0	.273	250	323

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	344	281
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	277	240
Washington	5	6	0	.455	215	262
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	256	301
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Atlanta	9	2	0	.818	276	209
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	265	197
Tampa Bay	7	4	0	.636	219	223
Carolina	1	10	0	.091	140	276
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	222	172
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	269	166
Minnesota	4	7	0	.364	189	239
Detroit	2	9	0	.182	258	282
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Seattle	5	6	0	.455	209	275
St. Louis	5	6	0	.455	213	231
San Francisco	4	7	0	.364	187	225
Arizona	3	8	0	.273	194	319

WEEK 13

Last night's result
Philadelphia 34 Houston 24
Sunday's games
All times Eastern
San Francisco at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Dallas at Indianapolis, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 6
N.Y. Jets at New England, 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

AP TOP 25

(All times Eastern)
Tonight's game
No. 24 Northern Illinois vs. Miami (Ohio) at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
No. 1 Oregon at Oregon State, 3:30 p.m.
No. 2 Auburn vs. **No. 18** South Carolina at Atlanta, 4 p.m.
No. 9 Boise State vs. Utah State, 3 p.m.
No. 10 Oklahoma vs. **No. 13** Nebraska at Arlington, Texas, 8 p.m.
No. 12 Virginia Tech vs. **No. 20** Florida State at Charlotte, N.C, 7:45 p.m.
No. 14 Nevada at Louisiana Tech, 3 p.m.
No. 23 West Virginia vs. Rutgers, Noon
No. 25 Hawaii vs. UNLV, 10:30 p.m.

THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THE IPHONE SINCE OUR LAST APP!
NEW Crossword and Suduko updated daily.
Available on the App Store
metro play

Crossword

Across

1 Group character
6 Craze
9 Prescription safety org.
12 Make minor adjustments
13 Honest politician
14 Botanical bristle
15 Hidden store
16 Fastened a seat belt
18 Persian Gulf land
20 Capri or Wight
21 Cowboy's sweetie
23 Resort
24 Undoes deles
25 Newspaper page
27 Cove
29 Enact
31 Ms. Franklin
35 Possibly could
37 Apprehend
38 Macho type
41 — glance
43 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
44 "Oh, woe!"
45 Man with all the answers?
47 Drunk
49 Swelling
52 Sch. group
53 Pink-slip
54 Oft-dunked treats
55 Ever-green type
56 Peak (Abbr.)
57 13-Across' in-laws

Down

1 List-ending abbr.
2 Old "Up, up and away" carrier
3 Badgered a performer
4 Hawaiian island
5 Distorts
6 "Turn Me Loose" singer
7 Touch
8 Calendar abbr.
9 Untrue
10 Lived
11 Llamas' range
17 One of a nursery rhyme trio
19 Mimicry
21 Sticky stuff
22 Auto financing abbr.
24 Sun. speech
26 Reversible fabric
28 Coffee-house order
30 "There's no — team"
32 Took on
33 With it
34 — carte
36 Solidify
38 Glad
39 Upper crust
40 Colorful parrot
42 Monk's superior
45 Libretto
46 Modern-day money
48 Felon's flight
50 Deity
51 Curvy character

▶ Yesterday's answer

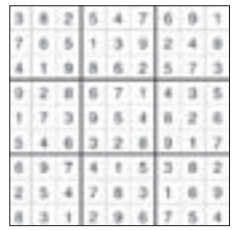
Sudoku

	8		4		5		7	
		5	9		3	4		
	2	9				3	5	
			6		8			
5								4
			3		1			
	5	2				7	8	
		1	2		9	6		
	6		5		7		4	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶



Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Yellow: From the letters, to the blogs, to this... I always put it best in writing, "I love you!" **HAPPY G7 BEAUTIFUL :)**

Dearest Lexi, i know things have been rough for us this past month but i want you to know i dont love you any less. I love you now and forever and have not given up. I ask you not to either. I love you and am sorry for everything. Love always, **ADNAAN.**

P.S. IM SO GLAD YOU ARE IN MY LIFE AND THAT I MET YOU

Kristen, You are my everything my anything. All that I know and all that I want. Without you I am nothing with you I am everything. Alone we are weak together we can last forever. **STEFANO**

Hi shabola, kisses from the mokhayam, happy 10 years!!

A look at the weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min -12° Max -5°	Min -16° Max -5°	Min -16° Max -5°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Something out of the ordinary will happen today, something you will enjoy immensely, but don't just stand there admiring your luck – use it to create even more good things for yourself in the future

♉ Taurus April 21-May What happens over the next 24 hours may take you by surprise but it will be one of those surprises that work in your favor, so be ready for it.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 The direct approach is by far the best approach today, so let everyone know how you feel and what they can do to make you feel even better.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Shake up your everyday routine. Use Mars in the work area of your chart to get on top of your chores. Do everything at double quick time

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Do something that takes those you live, work and do business with by surprise – and if it shocks them too then so much the better. You're a Leo and people expect you to be a bit outrageous

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Before you open your mouth and give your opinion on one of the burning issues of the day stop for a moment and think what the consequences might be.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Boredom is a cardinal sin and you will do whatever it takes to liven things up a bit today. Practical jokes will go down well with those who are watching

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Whatever you do today there will be someone who disapproves. Do you care? Of course not.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Mars in your sign, at odds with Uranus, makes you want to tear up what you are doing and start again from scratch. But is that wise?

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will get the chance to change something today, something you wish you had changed a long time ago. This time you won't waste the opportunity. This time you will be bold and see it through. This time you won't chicken out.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 There are so many good causes out there that would benefit from your input, but you cannot possibly help them all. What is it that you most want to change in the world? How can you do that? So do it. Now.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 It's not true that you never take chances and you'll go out of your way to prove it today as Mars, planet of action, links to Uranus, planet of changes. It's time to stir things up a bit.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

MARIO VAZQUEZ DE LA TORRE/ AP/ AGENCIA MVT

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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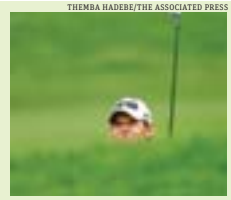

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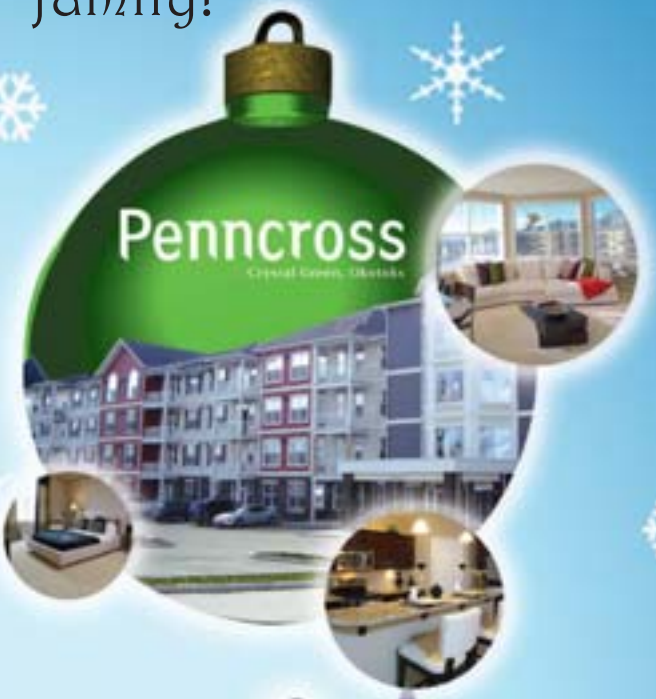

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